

Act 5.

CATO

Scene 3.



Engr. by J. G. Smith.

Published June, 14. 1777. by T.

W. P. Roberts.

Vol. II.

M<sup>rs</sup> HARTLEY in the Character of MARCIA.

*O ye immortal Powers that guard the just,  
Watch round his Couch, and soften his repose.*

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C A T O.  
A  
T R A G E D Y.

WRITTEN BY

MR. ADDISON.

Marked with the Variations in the

M A N A G E R's B O O K,

AT THE

Theatre-Royal in Covent-Garden.

*Ecce Spectaculum dignum, ad quod respiciat, intentus operi suo, Deus! Ecce par Deo dignum, vir fortis cum malâ fortunâ compositus! Non video, inquam, quid habeat in terris Jupiter pulchrius, si convertere animum velit, quàm ut spectet Catonem, jam partibus non semel fractis, nihilominus inter ruinas publicas erectum.*

Sen. de Divin. Prov.

L O N D O N:

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GESTON.

M.DCC.LXXVII.

The Reader is desired to observe, that the passages omitted in the Representation at the Theatres are here preserved, and marked with inverted Commas ; as in Line 15, in Page 17.



V E R S E S

To the AUTHOR of the

T R A G E D Y of C A T O.

W H I L E you the fierce divided *Britons* awe,  
 And *Cato* with an equal virtue draw ;  
 While *Envy* is itself in wonder lost,  
 And *Factions* strive who shall applaud you most ;  
 Forgive the fond ambition of a friend,  
 Who hopes himself, not you, to recommend :  
 And joins the applause which all the learn'd bestow  
 On one, to whom a perfect work they owe.  
 To my \* light scenes I once inscrib'd your name,  
 And impotently strove to borrow fame ;  
 Soon will that die, which adds thy name to mine ;  
 Let me, then, live, join'd to a work of thine.

RICHARD STEELE.

\* Tender Husband, dedicated to Mr. Addison.

T H O' *Cato* shines in *Virgil's* epic song,  
 Prescribing laws among th' *Elysian* throng ;  
 Though *Lucan's* verse, exalted by his name,  
 O'er Gods themselves has rais'd the hero's fame :  
 The *Roman* stage did ne'er his image see,  
 Drawn at full length ; a task reserv'd for thee.  
 By thee we view the finish'd figure rise,  
 And awful march before our ravish'd eyes ;  
 We hear his voice, asserting virtue's cause :  
 His fate renew'd our deep attention draws,  
 Excites by turns our various hopes and fears,  
 And all the patriot in thy scene appears.

On *Tiber's* banks thy thought was first inspir'd;  
 'Twas there, to some indulgent grove retir'd,  
*Rome's* ancient fortunes rolling in thy mind,  
 Thy happy Muse this manly work design'd :  
 Or in a dream thou saw'st *Rome's* genius stand,  
 And, leading *Cato* in his sacred hand,  
 Point out th' immortal subject to thy lays,  
 And ask this labour, to record his praise.  
 'Tis done—the hero lives, and charms our age!  
 While nobler morals grace the *British* stage.  
 Great *Shakespeare's* ghost, the solemn strain to bear,  
 (Methinks I see the laurel'd shade appear !)  
 Will hover o'er the scene, and wond'ring view  
 His fav'rite *Brutus* rival'd thus by you.  
 Such *Roman* greatness in such action shines,  
 Such *Roman* eloquence adorn your lines,  
 That sure the *Sibyls* books this year foretold,  
 And in some mystic leaf was seen inroll'd,  
 ' *Rome*, turn thy mournful eyes from *Africk's* shore,  
 ' Nor in her sands thy *Cato's* tomb explore !  
 ' When thrice six hundred times the circling sun  
 ' His annual race shall through the zodiac run,  
 ' An isle remote his monument shall rear,  
 ' And ev'ry generous *Briton* pay a tear.'

J. HUGHES.

WHAT do we see ! Is *Cato* then become  
 A greater name in *Britain* than in *Rome* ?  
 Does mankind now admire his virtues more,  
 Though *Lucan*, *Horace*, *Virgil*, wrote before ?  
 How will posterity this truth explain ?  
 " *Cato* begins to live in *Anna's* reign :"  
 The world's great chiefs, in council or in arms,  
 Rise in your lines with more exalted charms ;  
 Illustrious deeds in distant nations wrought,  
 And virtues by departed heroes taught ;  
 Raise in your soul a pure immortal flame,  
 Adorn your life, and consecrate your fame ;

To

To your renown all ages you subdue,  
And *Cæsar* fought, and *Cato* bled for you.

*All Soul's College, Oxon.*

EDWARD YOUNGE.

'TIS nobly done thus to enrich the stage,  
And raise the thoughts of a degen'rate age;  
To shew how endless joys from freedom spring,  
How life in bondage is a worthless thing.  
The inborn greatness of your soul we view,  
You tread the paths frequented by the few;  
With so much strength you write and so much ease,  
Virtue and sense! how durst you hope to please?  
Yet crowds the sentiments of ev'ry line  
Impartial clap'd, and own'd the work divine.  
Ev'n the four critics, who malicious came,  
Eager to censure, and resolv'd to blame,  
Finding the hero regularly rise,  
Great while he lives, but greater when he dies,  
Sullen approv'd, too obstinate to melt,  
And sicken'd with the pleasures which they felt.  
Not so the fair their passions secret kept,  
Silent they heard, but as they heard, they wept;  
When gloriously the blooming *Marcus* dy'd,  
And *Cato* told the Gods, *I'm satisfy'd*.

See! how your lays the *British* youth inflame!  
They long to shoot and ripen into fame,  
Applauding theatres disturb their rest,  
And unborn *Cato's* heave in ev'ry breast;  
Their nightly dreams, their daily thoughts repeat,  
And pulses high with fancy'd glories beat.  
So, griev'd to view the *Marathonian* spoils,  
The young *Themistocles* vow'd equal toils;  
Did then his schemes of future honours draw  
From the long triumphs which with tears he saw.

How shall I your unrival'd worth proclaim,  
Lost in the spreading circle of your fame!  
We saw you the great *William's* praise rehearse,  
And paint *Britania's* joys in *Roman* verse.

We heard at distance, soft enchanting strains,  
 From blooming mountains, and *Italian* plains.  
*Virgil* began in *English* dress to shine,  
 His voice, his looks, his grandeur still divine :  
 From him too soon unfriendly you withdrew,  
 But brought the tuneful *Ovid* to our view.  
 Then the delightful theme of ev'ry tongue,  
 Th' immortal *Marlb'rough* was your darling song.  
 From clime to clime the mighty victor flew,  
 From clime to clime as swiftly you pursue.  
 Still with the hero's glow'd the poet's flame,  
 Still with his conquests you enlarg'd your fame.  
 With boundless raptures here the muse could swell,  
 And on your *Rosamond* for ever dwell :  
 There opening sweets, and ev'ry fragrant flow'r  
 Luxuriant smile, a never fading bow'r !  
 Next, human follies kindly to expose,  
 You change from numbers, but not sink in prose :  
 Whether in visionary scenes you play,  
 Refine our tastes, or laugh our crimes away.  
 Now, by the buskin'd muse you shine confest,  
 The patriot kindles in the poet's breast.  
 Such energy of sense might pleasure raise,  
 Tho' unembellish'd with the charms of phrase :  
 Such charms of phrase would with success be crown'd,  
 Tho' nonsense flow'd in the melodious sound.  
 The chastest virgin needs no blushes fear,  
 The learn'd themselves, not uninstructed, hear.  
 The libertine, in pleasures us'd to roll,  
 And idly sport with an immortal soul,  
 Here comes, and by the virtuous heathen taught,  
 Turns pale, and trembles at the dreadful thought.

Whene'er you traverse vast *Numidia's* plains,  
 What sluggish *Briton* in his isle remains ?  
 When *Juba* seeks the tiger with delight,  
 We beat the thicket, and provoke the fight ;  
 By the description warm'd, we fondly sweat,  
 And in the chilling east wind pant with heat.  
 What eyes behold not, how the stream refines,  
 'Till by degrees the floating mirror shines ?

• While

While hurricanes in circling eddies play,  
 Tear up the sands, and sweep whole plains away,  
 We shrink with horror, and confess our fear,  
 And all the sudden sounding ruin hear.  
 When purple robes, distain'd with blood, deceive,  
 And make poor *Marcia* beautifully grieve;  
 When she her secret thoughts no more conceals,  
 Forgets the woman, and her flame reveals;  
 Well may the prince exult with noble pride,  
 Not for his *Libyan* crown, but *Roman* bride.

But I in vain on single features dwell,  
 While all the parts of the fair piece excel.  
 So rich the store, so dubious is the feast,  
 We know not which to pass, or which to taste.  
 The shining incidents so justly fall,  
 We may the whole new scenes of transport call.  
 Thus jewellers confound our wand'ring eyes,  
 And with variety of gems surprize:  
 Here *saphires*, here the *Sardian* stone is seen,  
 The topaz yellow, and the jasper green.  
 The costly brilliant there, confus'dly bright,  
 From num'rous surfaces darts trembling light:  
 The diff'rent colours mingle in a blaze,  
 Silent we stand, unable where to praise,  
 In pleasure sweetly lost ten thousand ways.

Trinity-College,  
 Cambridge.

L. EUSDEN.

TOO long hath love engross'd *Britannia's* stage,  
 And sung to softness all our tragic rage:  
 By that alone did empires fall or rise,  
 And fate depended on a fair one's eyes:  
 The sweet infection, mix'd with dang'rous art,  
 Debas'd our manhood, while it sooth'd the heart.  
 You scorn to raise a grief yourself must blame,  
 Nor from our weakness steal a vulgar fame;  
 A patriot's fall must justly melt the mind,  
 And tears flow nobly, shed for all mankind.

How do our souls with gen'rous pleasure glow !  
 Our hearts exulting, while our eyes o'erflow,  
 When thy firm hero stands beneath the weight  
 Of all his suff'rings, venerably great ;  
*Rome's* poor remains still shelt'ring by his side,  
 With conscious virtue, and becoming pride.

The aged oak thus rears his head in air,  
 His sap exhausted, and his branches bare ;  
 'Midst storms and earthquakes he maintains his state,  
 Fixt deep in earth, and fasten'd by his weight :  
 His naked boughs still lend the shepherds aid,  
 And his old trunk projects an awful shade.

Amidst the joys triumphant peace bestows,  
 Our patriots sadden at his glorious woes,  
 Awhile they let the world's great bus'ness wait,  
 Anxious for *Rome*, and sigh for *Cato's* fate.  
 Here taught how ancient heroes rose to fame,  
 Our *Britons* crowd, and catch the *Roman* flame :  
 Where states and senates well might lend an ear,  
 And kings and priests without a blush appear.

France boasts no more, but, fearful to engage,  
 Now first pays homage to her rival's stage ;  
 Hastes to learn thee, and learning shall submit,  
 Alike to *British* arms, and *British* wit :  
 No more she'll wonder, (forc'd to do us right,)  
 Who think like *Romans*, could like *Romans* fight.

Thy *Oxford* smiles this glorious work to see,  
 And fondly triumphs in a son like thee.  
 The senator, consuls, and the gods of *Rome*,  
 Like old acquaintance at their native home,  
 In thee we find : each deed, each word express'd,  
 And ev'ry thought that swell'd a *Roman* breast.  
 We trace each hint that could thy soul inspire,  
 With *Virgil's* judgment, and with *Lucan's* fire :  
 We know thy worth, and give us leave to boast,  
 We most admire, because we know thee most.

Queen's-College,  
 Oxen.

THO. TICKELL.

SIR,

S I R,

WHEN your gen'rous labour first I view'd,  
 And *Cato's* hands in his own blood embru'd,  
 That scene of death so terrible appears,  
 My soul could only thank you with her tears.  
 Yet with such wondrous art your skilful hand  
 Does all the passions of the soul command,  
 That ev'n my grief to praise and wonder turn'd,  
 And envy'd the great death which first I mourn'd.

What pen, but yours, could draw the doubtful strife  
 Of honour struggling with the love of life?  
 Describe the patriot, obstinately good,  
 As hov'ring o'er eternity he stood:  
 The wide, th' unbounded ocean lay before  
 His piercing sight, and Heav'n the distant shore,  
 Secure of endless bliss, with fearless eyes,  
 He grasps the dagger, and its point defies,  
 And rushes out of life to snatch the glorious prize.

How would old *Rome* rejoice to hear you tell  
 How just her patriot liv'd, how great he fell!  
 Recount his wondrous probity and truth,  
 And form new *Juba's* in the *British* youth.  
 Their gen'rous souls, when he resigns his breath,  
 Are pleas'd with ruin, and in love with death;  
 And when her conqu'ring sword *Britannia* draws,  
 Resolve to perish, or defend her cause.  
 Now first on *Albion's* theatre we see  
 A perfect image of what man should be;  
 The glorious character is now express'd,  
 Of virtue dwelling in a human breast,  
 Drawn at full length by your immortal lines,  
 In *Cato's* soul, as in her Heav'n, she shines.

*All-Souls College,*  
*Oxon.*

DIGBY COTES.

Left with the Printer by an Unknown  
Hand.

NOW we may speak, since *Cato* speaks no more;  
'Tis praise at length, 'twas rapture all before;  
When crouded theatres with *Io*'s rung,  
Sent to the skies, from whence thy genius sprung;  
Ev'n civil rage a-while in thine was lost,  
And factions strove but to applaud thee most;  
Nor could enjoyment pall our longing taste,  
But ev'ry night was dearer than the last.

As when old *Rome*, in a malignant hour  
Depriv'd of some returning conqueror,  
Her debt of triumph to the dead discharg'd,  
For fame, for treasure, and her bounds enlarg'd;  
And while his godlike figure mov'd along,  
Alternate passions fir'd the adoring throng;  
Tears flow'd from ev'ry eye, and shouts from ev'ry  
tongue: }

So in thy pompous lines has *Cato* far'd,  
Grac'd with an ample, though a late reward:  
A greater victor we in him revere;  
A nobler triumph crowns his image here.

With wonder, as with pleasure, we survey  
A theme so scanty wrought into a play;  
So vast a pile on such foundations plac'd:  
Like *Ammon*'s temple rear'd on *Libya*'s waste:  
Behold its glowing paint! its easy weight!  
Its nice proportions! and stupendous height!  
How chaste the conduct! how divine the rage!  
A *Roman* worthy on a *Grecian* stage!

But where shall *Cato*'s praise begin or end;  
Inclin'd to melt, and yet untaught to bend,  
The firmest patriot, and the gentlest friend?  
How great his genius when the traitor crowd  
Ready to strike the blow their fury vow'd;  
Quell'd by his look, and list'ning to his lore,  
Learn, like his passions, to rebel no more! }

When,

When, lavish of his boiling blood, to prove  
 The cure of slavish life, and slighted love,  
 Brave *Marcus* new in early death appears,  
 While *Cato* counts his wounds, and not his years;  
 Who checking private grief, the public mourns,  
 Commands the pity he so greatly scorns.  
 But when he strikes (to crown his gen'rous part)  
 That honest, staunch, impracticable heart;  
 No tears, no sobs pursue his panting breath;  
 The dying *Roman* shames the pomp of death.

O sacred freedom, which the powers bestow  
 To season blessings, and to soften woe;  
 Plant of our growth, and aim of all our cares,  
 The toil of ages, and the crown of wars:  
 If, taught by thee, the poet's wit has flow'd  
 In strains as precious as his hero's blood;  
 Preserve those strains, an everlasting charm  
 To keep that blood, and thy remembrance warm;  
 Be this thy guardian image still secure,  
 In vain shall force invade, or fraud allure;  
 Our great *Palladium* shall perform its part,  
 Fix'd and enshrin'd in ev'ry *British* heart.

THE mind to virtue is by verse subdu'd;  
 And the true poet is a public good.  
 This *Britain* feels, while, by your lines inspir'd,  
 Her free-born sons to glorious thoughts are fir'd.  
 In *Rome* had you espous'd the vanquish'd cause,  
 Inflam'd her senate, and upheld her laws;  
 Your manly scenes had liberty restor'd,  
 And giv'n the just success to *Cato's* sword;  
 O'er *Cæsar's* arms your genius had prevail'd;  
 And the muse triumph'd where the patriot fail'd.

AMB. PHILLIPS.

# P R O L O G U E.

*T*O wake the soul by tender strokes of art,  
 To raise the genius, and to mend the heart,  
 To make mankind in conscious virtue bold,  
 Live o'er each scene, and be what they behold:  
 For this the tragic muse first trod the stage,  
 Commanding tears to stream through every age;  
 Tyrants no more their savage nature kept,  
 And foes to virtue wonder'd how they wept.  
 Our author shuns by vulgar springs to move  
 The hero's glory or the virgin's love;  
 In pitying love we but our weakness show,  
 And wild ambition well deserves its woe.  
 Here tears shall flow from a more gen'rous cause,  
 Such tears as patriots shed for dying laws:  
 He bids your breasts with ancient ardour rise,  
 And calls forth Roman drops from British eyes.  
 Virtue confess'd in human shape he draws,  
 What Plato thought, and God-like Cato was:  
 No common object to your sight displays,  
 But what with pleasure Heav'n itself surveys;  
 A brave man struggling in the storms of fate,  
 And greatly falling with a falling state!  
 While Cato gives his little senate laws,  
 What bosom beats not in his country's cause?  
 Who sees him act, but envies every deed?  
 Who hears him groan, and does not wish to bleed?  
 Ev'n when proud Cæsar, 'midst triumphal cars,  
 The spoils of nations, and the pomp of wars,  
 Ignobly vain, and impotently great,  
 Shew'd Rome her Cato's figure drawn in state,  
 As her dead father's rev'rend image past,  
 The pomp was darken'd, and the day o'ercast,  
 The triumph ceas'd—tears gush'd from every eye,  
 The world's great victor pass'd unheeded by;  
 Her last good man dejected Rome ador'd,  
 And honour'd Cæsar's less than Cato's sword.  
 Britons attend: Be worth like this approv'd,  
 And shew you have the virtue to be mov'd.  
 With honest scorn the first fam'd Cato view'd  
 Rome learning arts from Greece, whom she subdu'd.

Our

*Our scenes precariously subsist too long  
On French translation and Italian song,  
Dare to have sense yourselves ; assert the stage,  
Be justly warm'd with your own native rage,  
Such Plays alone should please a British ear,  
As Cato's self had not disdain'd to hear.*

**Dramatis**

# Dramatis Personæ, 1776.

## M E N.

Cato, —	—	—	AT COVENT GARDEN.
Lucius, —	—	—	Mr. SHERIDAN.
Sempronius, } Senators,	—	—	Mr. L'ESTRANGE.
Juba, Prince of Numidia, —	—	—	Mr. CLARKE.
Syphax, General of the Numidians, —	—	—	Mr. WROUGHTON.
Portius, } Sons of Cato, —	—	—	Mr. HULL.
Marcus, } —	—	—	Mr. AIKIN.
Decius, Ambassador from Cæsar, —	—	—	Mr. LEWIS.
			Mr. FEARON.

*Mutineers, Guards, &c,*

## W O M E N.

Marcia, Daughter to Cato, —	—	—	Mrs. HARTLEY.
Lucia, Daughter to Lucius, —	—	—	Mrs. JACKSON.

SCENE, A large Hall in the Governor's Palace of Utica.

# C A T O.

## A C T I.

*Enter Portius and Marcus.*

*Por.* **T**HE dawn is over-cast, the morning low'rs,  
And heavily in clouds brings on the day,  
The great, th' important day, big with the fate  
Of *Cato* and of *Rome*—our father's death  
Would fill up all the guilt of civil war,  
And close the scene of blood. Already *Cæsar*  
Has ravag'd more than half the globe, and sees  
Mankind grown thin by his destructive sword:  
Should he go farther, numbers would be wanting  
To form new battles, and support his crimes.  
Ye gods, what havock does ambition make  
Among your works!

*Marc.* Thy steady temper, *Portius*,  
Can look on guilt, rebellion, fraud and *Cæsar*,  
In the calm lights of mild philosophy;  
I'm tortur'd, ev'n to madness, when I think  
On the proud victor: ev'ry time he's nam'd  
*Pharsalia* rises to my view!—I see  
Th' insulting tyrant prancing o'er the field,  
Strew'd with *Rome's* citizens, and drench'd in slaughter,  
His horse's hoofs wet with patrician blood!  
O *Portius*! is there not some chosen curse,  
Some hidden thunder in the stores of Heav'n,  
Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the man  
Who owes his greatness to his country's ruin?

*Por.* Believe me, *Marcus*, 'tis an impious greatness,  
And mix'd with too much horror to be envy'd;  
How does the lustre of our father's actions,  
Through the dark cloud of ills that cover him,

Break out, and burn with more triumphant brightness!  
 His sufferings shine, and spread a glory round him;  
 Greatly unfortunate, he fights the cause  
 Of honour, virtue, liberty, and *Rome*.  
 His sword ne'er fell, but on the guilty head;  
 Oppression, tyranny, and pow'r usurp'd,  
 Draw all the vengeance of his arm upon 'em.

*Marc.* Who knows not this? But what can *Cato* do  
 Against a world, a base, degen'rate world,  
 That courts the yoke, and bows the neck to *Cæsar*?  
 Pent up in *Utica*, he vainly forms  
 A poor epitome of *Roman* greatness,  
 And, cover'd with *Numidian* guards, directs  
 A feeble army, and an empty senate,  
 Remnants of mighty battles fought in vain.  
 By Heav'n, such virtues, join'd with such success,  
 Distracts my very soul: our father's fortune  
 Would almost tempt us to renounce his precepts.

*Por.* Remember what our father oft has told us:  
 The ways of Heav'n are dark and intricate,  
 Puzzled in mazes, and perplex'd with errors,  
 Our understanding traces them in vain,  
 Lost and bewilder'd in the fruitless search;  
 Nor sees with how much art the windings run,  
 Nor where the regular confusion ends.

*Marc.* These are suggestions of a mind at ease:  
 O *Portius*, didst thou taste but half the griefs  
 That wring my soul, thou couldst not talk thus coldly.  
 Passion unpitied, and successless love,  
 Plant daggers in my heart, and aggravate  
 My other griefs. Were but my *Lucia* kind—

*Por.* Thou seest not that thy brother is thy rival;  
 But I must hide it, for I know thy temper. [Aside,  
 Now, *Marcus*, now, thy virtue's on the proof:  
 Put forth thy utmost strength, work ev'ry nerve,  
 And call up all thy father in thy soul:  
 To quell the tyrant, love, and guard thy heart  
 On this weak side, where most our nature fails,  
 Would be a conquest worthy *Cato's* son.

*Marc.* *Portius*, the counsel which I cannot take,  
 Instead of healing, but upbraids my weakness.

Bid me for honour plunge into a war  
Of thickest foes, and rush on certain death,  
Then shalt thou see that *Marcus* is not slow  
To follow glory, and confess his father.  
Love is not to be reason'd down, or lost  
In high ambition, or a thirst of greatness;  
'Tis second life, it grows into the soul,  
Warms ev'ry vein, and beats in ev'ry pulse,  
I feel it here: my resolution melts —

*Por.* Behold young *Juba*, the *Numidian* prince,  
With how much care he forms himself to glory,  
And breaks the fierceness of his native temper,  
To copy out our father's bright example.  
He loves our sister *Marcia*, greatly loves her;  
'His eyes, his looks, his actions, all betray it;'   
But still the smother'd fondness burns within him;  
'When most it swells, and labours for a vent,'  
The sense of honour, and desire of fame  
Drive the big passion back into his heart.  
What! shall an *African*, shall *Juba's* heir,  
Reproach great *Cato's* son, and shew the world  
A virtue wanting in a *Roman* soul!

*Marc.* *Portius*, no more! your words leave stings behind 'em.

Whene'er did *Juba*, or did *Portius*, shew  
A virtue that has cast me at a distance,  
And thrown me out in the pursuits of honour?

*Por.* *Marcus*, I know thy gen'rous temper well;  
Fling but th' appearance of dishonour on it,  
It straight takes fire, and mounts into a blaze.

*Marc.* A brother's sufferings claim a brother's pity.

*Por.* Heav'n knows I pity thee. Behold my eyes  
Ev'n whilst I speak—do they not swim in tears?  
Were but my heart as naked to thy view,  
*Marcus* would see it bleed in his behalf.

*Marc.* Why then dost treat me with rebukes, instead  
Of kind condoling cares, and friendly sorrow?

*Por.* O *Marcus*! did I know the way to ease  
Thy troubled heart, and mitigate thy pains,  
*Marcus*, believe me, I could die to do it.

*Marc.* Thou best of brothers, and thou best of friends!  
Pardon

Pardon a weak, distemper'd soul, that swells  
 With sudden gusts, and sinks as soon in calms,  
 The sport of passions. But *Sempronius* comes :  
 He must not find this softness hanging on me. [*Ex. Mar.*

*Enter Sempronius.*

*Sem.* Conspiracies no sooner should be form'd  
 Than executed. What means *Portius* here ?  
 I like not that cold youth. I must dissemble,  
 And speak a language foreign to my heart. [*Aside.*  
 Good-morrow, *Portius*; let us once embrace,  
 Once more embrace, while yet we both are free.  
 To-morrow, should we thus express our friendship,  
 Each might receive a slave into his arms.  
 This sun, perhaps, this morning sun's the last,  
 That e'er shall rise on *Roman* liberty.

*Por.* My father has this morning call'd together  
 To this poor hall, his little *Roman* senate,  
 (The leavings of *Pharsalia*) to consult  
 If he can yet oppose the mighty torrent  
 That bears down *Rome*, and all her gods before it,  
 Or must at length give up the world to *Cæsar*.

*Sem.* Not all the pomp and majesty of *Rome*  
 Can raise her senate more than *Cato's* presence.  
 His virtues render our assembly awful,  
 They strike with something like religious fear,  
 And make ev'n *Cæsar* tremble at the head  
 Of armies flush'd with conquest. O my *Portius*,  
 Could I but call that wond'rous man my father,  
 Would but thy sister *Marcia* be propitious  
 To thy friend's vows, I might be bless'd indeed!

*Por.* Alas, *Sempronius*! wouldst thou talk of love  
 To *Marcia*, whilst her father's life's in danger;  
 Thou might'st as well court the pale, trembling vestal,  
 When she beholds the holy flame expiring.

*Sem.* The more I see the wonders of thy race,  
 The more I'm charm'd. Thou must take heed, my  
 The world has all its eyes on *Cato's* son; [*Portius*;  
 Thy father's merit sets thee up to view,  
 And shews thee in the fairest point of light,  
 To make thy virtues or thy faults conspicuous.

*Por.*

*Por.* Well dost thou seem to check my ling'ring here  
 On this important hour—I'll straight away,  
 And while the fathers of the senate meet  
 In close debate, to weigh th' events of war,  
 I'll animate the soldiers drooping courage  
 With love of freedom, and contempt of life;  
 I'll thunder in their ears their country's cause,  
 And try to rouse up all that *Roman* in 'em.  
 'Tis not in mortals to command success,  
 But we'll do more, *Sempronius*, we'll deserve it: [*Exit.*

*Sem.* Curse on the stripling! how he apes his fire?  
 Ambitiously sententious—But I wonder  
 Old *Syphax* comes not: his *Numidian* genius  
 Is well dispos'd to mischief, were he prompt  
 And eager on it; but he must be spurr'd,  
 And ev'ry moment quicken'd to the course.  
 —*Cato* has us'd me ill: he has refus'd  
 His daughter *Marcia* to my ardent vows.  
 Besides, his baffled arms, and ruin'd cause,  
 Are bars to my ambition. *Cæsar's* favour,  
 That show'rs down greatness on his friends, will raise me  
 To *Rome's* first honours. If I give up *Cato*,  
 I claim, in my reward, his captive daughter.  
 But *Syphax* comes——

*Enter Syphax.*

*Sy. Sempronius*, all is ready;  
 I've sounded my *Numidians*, man by man,  
 And find them ripe for a revolt: they all  
 Complain aloud of *Cato's* discipline,  
 And wait but the command to change their master.

*Sem.* Believe me, *Syphax*, there's no time to waste;  
 Ev'n while we speak our conqueror comes on,  
 And gathers ground upon us ev'ry moment.  
 Alas! thou know'st not *Cæsar's* active soul,  
 With what a dreadful course he rushes on  
 From war to war. In vain has nature form'd  
 Mountains and oceans to oppose his passage;  
 He bounds o'er all; victorious in his march,  
 The *Alps* and *Pyreneans* sink before him;  
 Through winds and waves, and storms he works his way,  
 Impatient for the battle; one day more

Will

Will set the victor thund'ring at our gates.  
 But, tell me, hast thou yet drawn o'er young *Juba*!  
 That still would recommend thee more to *Cæsar*,  
 And challenge better terms.

*Sy.* Alas, he's lost!

He's lost, *Sempronius*; all his thoughts are full  
 Of *Cato's* virtues—But I'll try once more,  
 (For ev'ry instant I expect him here)  
 If yet I can subdue those stubborn principles  
 Of faith and honour, and I know not what,  
 That have corrupted his *Numidian* temper,  
 And struck th' infection into all his soul.

*Sem.* Be sure to press upon him ev'ry motive.  
*Juba's* surrender, since his fathers's death,  
 Would give up *Africk* into *Cæsar's* hands,  
 And make him lord of half the burning zone.

*Sy.* But is it true, *Sempronius*, that your senate  
 Is call'd together? Gods! thou must be cautious;  
*Cato* has piercing eyes, and will discern  
 Our frauds, unless they're cover'd thick with art.

*Sem.* Let me alone, good *Syphax*, I'll conceal  
 My thoughts in passion, ('tis the surest way;)  
 I'll bellow out for *Rome*, and for my country,  
 And mouthe at *Cæsar*, 'till I shake the senate.  
 Your cold hypocrisy's a stale device,  
 A worn-out trick: would'st thou be thought in earnest,  
 Cloath thy feign'd zeal in rage, in fire, in fury!

*Sy.* In troth, thou'rt able to instruct grey hairs,  
 And teach the wily *African* deceit.

*Sem.* Once more be sure to try thy skill on *Juba*.  
 Mean while I'll hasten to my *Roman* soldiers,  
 In flame the mutiny, and underhand  
 Blow up their discontents, 'till they break out  
 Unlook'd for, and discharge themselves on *Cato*.  
 Remember, *Syphax*, we must work in haste:  
 Oh, think what anxious moments pass between  
 The birth of plots, and their last fatal periods.  
 Oh, 'tis a dreadful interval of time,  
 Fill'd up with horror all, and big with death!  
 Destruction hangs on ev'ry word we speak,  
 On ev'ry thought, 'till the concluding stroke

Determines all, and closes our design.

[Exit.

Sy. I'll try if yet I can reduce to reason  
This headstrong youth, and make him spurn at *Cato*.  
The time is short; *Cæsar* comes rushing on us—  
But hold! young *Juba* sees me, and approaches.

Enter *Juba*.

*Jub.* *Syphax*, I joy to meet thee thus alone.  
I have observ'd of late thy looks are fall'n,  
O'ercast with gloomy cares and discontent.  
Then tell me, *Syphax*, I conjure thee, tell me,  
What are the thoughts that knit thy brow in frowns,  
And turn thine eye thus coldly on thy prince?

Sy. 'Tis not my talent to conceal my thoughts,  
Or carry smiles and sunshine in my face,  
When discontent sits heavy at my heart;  
I have not yet so much the *Roman* in me.

*Jub.* Why dost thou cast out such ungen'rous terms  
Against the lords and sov'reigns of the world?  
Dost thou not see mankind fall down before them,  
And own the force of their superior virtue?  
Is there a nation in the wilds of *Afric*,  
Amidst our barren rocks, and burning sands,  
That does not tremble at the *Roman* name?

Sy. Gods! where's the worth that sets these people up  
Above her own *Numidia*'s tawny sons?  
Do they with tougher sinews bend the bow?  
Or flies the jav'lin swifter to its mark,  
Launch'd from the vigour of a *Roman* arm?  
Who like our active *African* instructs  
The fiery steed, and trains him to his hand?  
Or guides in troops th' embattled elephant,  
Laden with war? These, these are arts, my prince,  
In which your *Zama* does not stoop to *Rome*.

*Jub.* These all are virtues of a meaner rank;  
Perfections that are plac'd in bones and nerves.  
A *Roman* soul is bent on higher views:  
To civilize the rude, unpolish'd world,  
And lay it under the restraint of laws;  
To make man mild, and sociable to man:  
To cultivate the wild, licentious savage,  
With wisdom, discipline, and lib'ral arts;

The

The embellishments of life : virtues like these  
 Make human nature shine, reform the soul,  
 And break our fierce barbarians into men.

Sy. Patience, kind Heav'ns!—excuse an old man's  
 warmth.

What are these wond'rous civilizing arts,  
 This *Roman* polish, and this smooth behaviour,  
 That renders man thus tractable and tame?  
 Are they not only to disguise our passions,  
 To set our looks at variance with our thoughts,  
 To check the starts and sallies of the soul,  
 And break off all its commerce with the tongue :  
 In short, to change us into other creatures  
 Than what our nature and the gods design'd us ?

Jub. To strike thee dumb : turn up thy eyes to *Cato* ;  
 There may'st thou see to what a god-like height  
 The *Roman* virtues lift up mortal man,  
 While good, and just, and anxious for his friends,  
 He's still severely bent against himself ;  
 ' Renouncing sleep, and rest, and food, and ease,  
 ' He strives with thirst and hunger, toil and heat,'  
 And when his fortune sets before him all  
 The pomps and pleasures that his soul can wish,  
 His rigid virtue will accept of none.

Sy. Believe me, prince, there's not an *African*  
 That traverses our vast *Numidian* deserts  
 In quest of prey, and lives upon his bow,  
 But better practises these boasted virtues.  
 Coarse are his meals, the fortune of the chase,  
 Amidst the running stream he slakes his thirst,  
 Toils all the day, and at th' approach of night,  
 On the first friendly bank he throws him down,  
 Or rests his head upon a rock 'till morn ;  
 Then rises fresh, pursues his wonted game,  
 And if the following day he chance to find  
 A new repast, or an untasted spring,  
 Blesses his stars and thinks it luxury.

Jub. Thy prejudices, *Syphax*, won't discern  
 What virtues grow from ignorance and choice,  
 Nor how the hero differs from the brute.

' But grant that others could with equal glory

' Look

‘ Look down on pleasures, and the baits of sense,  
Where shall we find the man that bears affliction,  
Great and majestic in his griefs, like *Cato* ?

‘ Heav’ns ! with what strength, what steadiness of mind,  
‘ He triumphs in the midst of all his sufferings !’

How does he rise against a load of woes,  
And thank the gods that throw the weight upon him !

*Sy.* ’Tis pride, rank pride, and haughtiness of soul ;  
I think the *Romans* call it *Stoicism*.

Had not your royal father thought so highly  
Of *Roman* virtue, and of *Cato*’s cause,  
He had not fall’n by a slave’s hand inglorious :  
Nor would his slaughter’d army now have lain  
On *Afric* sands, disfigur’d with their wounds,  
To gorge the wolves and vultures of *Numidia*.

*Jub.* Why dost thou call my sorrows up afresh ?  
My father’s name brings tears into my eyes.

*Sy.* Oh, that you’d profit by your father’s ills !

*Jub.* What wouldst thou have me do ?

*Sy.* Abandon *Cato*.

*Jub.* *Syphax*, I shou’d be more than twice an orphan  
By such a loss.

*Sy.* Aye, there’s the tie that binds you !  
You long to call him father, *Marcia*’s charms  
Work in your heart unseen, and plead for *Cato*.  
No wonder you are deaf to all I say.

*Jub.* *Syphax*, your zeal becomes importunate ;  
I’ve hitherto permitted it to rave,  
And talk at large ; but learn to keep it in,  
Lest it should take more freedom than I’ll give it.

*Sy.* Sir, your great father never us’d me thus.  
Alas, he’s dead ! but can you e’er forget  
The tender sorrows, and the pangs of nature,  
‘ The fond embraces, and repeated blessings,’  
Which you drew from him in your last farewell ?  
Still must I cherish the dear, sad remembrance,  
At once to torture and to please my soul.  
The good old king at parting wrung my hand,  
(His eyes brim-full of tears) then sighing, cry’d,  
Pr’ythee be careful of my son !—His grief  
Swell’d up so high, he could not utter more.

*Jub.*

*Jub.* Alas! thy story melts away my soul;  
That best of fathers! how shall I discharge  
The gratitude and duty which I owe him?

*Sy.* By laying up his counsels in your heart.

*Jub.* His counsels bade me yield to thy directions:  
Then, *Syphax*, chide me in severest terms,  
Vent all thy passion, and I'll stand its shock,  
Calm and unruffled as a summer sea,  
When no breath of wind flies o'er its surface.

*Sy.* Alas! my prince, I'd guide you to your safety.

*Jub.* I do believe thou wouldst; but tell me how?

*Sy.* Fly from the fate that follows *Cæsar's* foes.

*Jub.* My father scorn'd to do it.

*Sy.* And therefore dy'd.

*Jub.* Better to die ten thousand thousand deaths,  
Than wound my honour.

*Sy.* Rather say your love.

*Jub.* *Syphax*, I've promis'd to preserve my temper.  
Why wilt thou urge me to confess a flame  
I long have stifled, and would fain conceal?

*Sy.* Believe me, prince, tho' hard to conquer love,  
'Tis easy to divert and break its force.

Absence might cure it, or a second mistress  
Light up another flame, and put out this.  
The glowing dames of *Zama's* royal court  
Have faces flush'd with more exalted charms;  
The sun that rolls his chariot o'er their heads,  
Works up more fire and colour in their cheeks;  
Were you with these, my prince, you'd soon forget  
The pale, unripen'd beauties of the *North*.

*Jub.* 'Tis not a set of features, or complexion,  
The tincture of a skin, that I admire:  
Beauty soon grows familiar to the lover,  
Fades in his eye, and palls upon the sense.  
The virtuous *Marcia* tow'rs above her sex:  
True, she is fair, (Oh, how divinely fair!)  
But still the lovely maid improves her charms  
With inward greatness, unaffected wisdom,  
And sanctity of manners; *Cato's* soul  
Shines out in every thing she acts or speaks,  
While winning mildness and attractive smiles

Dwell

Dwell in her looks, and with becoming grace  
Softens the rigour of her father's virtue.

*Sy.* How does your tongue grow wanton in her praise!  
But on my knees I beg you would consider——

*Jub.* Hah! *Syphax*, is't not she?—She moves this way:

And with her *Lucia*, *Lucius's* fair daughter.  
My heart beats thick—I pr'ythee, *Syphax*, leave me.

*Sy.* Ten thousand curses fasten on 'em both!  
Now will this woman, with a single glance,  
Undo what I've been lab'ring all this while.

[*Exit. Syphax.*]

*Enter Marcia and Lucia.*

*Jub.* Hail, charming maid! how does thy beauty  
smooth

The face of war, and make ev'n horror smile!  
At sight of thee my heart shakes off its sorrows;  
I feel a dawn of joy break in upon me,  
And for a while forget th' approach of *Cæsar*.

*Mar.* I should be griev'd, young prince, to think my  
presence

Unbent your thoughts, and slacken'd 'em to arms,  
While warm with slaughter, our victorious foe  
Threatens aloud, and calls you to the field.

*Jub.* O *Marcia*, let me hope thy kind concerns  
And gentle wishes follow me to battle!  
The thought will give new vigour to my arm,  
Add strength and weight to my descending sword,  
And drive it in a tempest on the foe.

*Mar.* My pray'rs and wishes always shall attend  
The friends of *Rome*, the glorious cause of virtue,  
And men approv'd of by the gods and *Cato*.

*Jub.* That *Juba* may deserve thy pious cares,  
I'll gaze for ever on thy god-like father,  
Transplanting, one by one, into my life,  
His bright perfections, 'till I shine like him.

*Mar.* My father never at a time like this,  
Would lay out his great soul in words, and waste  
Such precious moments.

*Jub.* Thy reproofs are just,  
Thou virtuous maid; I'll hasten to my troops,

B

And

And fire their languid souls with *Cato's* virtue.  
 If e'er I lead them to the field, when all  
 The war shall stand rang'd in its just array,  
 And dreadful pomp ; then will I think on thee.  
 O lovely maid ! then will I think on thee.  
 And in the shock of charging hosts, remember  
 What glorious deeds should grace the man, who hopes  
 For *Marcia's* love. [Exit Juba.]

*Luc.* *Marcia*, you're too severe :  
 How cou'd you chide the young good-natur'd prince  
 And drive him from you with so stern an air,  
 A prince that loves and doats on you to death ?

*Mar.* 'Tis therefore, *Lucia*, that I chide him from me.  
 His air, his voice, his looks, and honest soul,  
 Speak all so movingly in his behalf,  
 I dare not trust myself to hear him talk.

*Luc.* Why will you fight against so sweet a passion,  
 And steel your heart to such a world of charms ?

*Mar.* How, *Lucia* ! wouldst thou have me sink away  
 In pleasing dreams, and lose myself in love,  
 When ev'ry moment *Cato's* life's at stake ?

*Cæsar* comes arm'd with terror and revenge,  
 And aims his thunder at my father's head.  
 Should not the sad occasion swallow up  
 My other cares, ' and draw them all into it ?'

*Luc.* Why have not I this constancy of mind,  
 Who have so many griefs to try its force ?  
 Sure, nature form'd me of her softest mould,  
 Enfeebled all my soul with tender passions,  
 And sunk me ev'n below my own weak sex :  
 Pity and love, by turns, oppress my heart.

*Mar.* *Lucia*, disburthen all thy cares on me,  
 And let me share thy most retir'd distress.  
 Tell me who raises up this conflict in thee ?

*Luc.* I need not blush to name them, when I tell thee  
 They're *Marcia's* brothers, and the sons of *Cato*.

*Mar.* They both behold thee with their sister's eyes,  
 And often have reveal'd their passion to me.

' But tell me, whose address thou fav'rest most ?

' I long to know, and yet I dread to hear it.

' *Luc.* Which is it *Marcia* wishes for ?

' *Mar.*

‘ *Mar.* For neither——

‘ And yet for both—The youths have equal share

‘ In *Marcia*’s wishes, and divide their sister :’

But tell me which of them is *Lucia*’s choice ?

‘ *Luc.* *Marcia*, they both are high in my esteem,

‘ But in my love—Why wilt thou make me name him !

‘ Thou know’st it is a blind and foolish passion,

‘ Pleas’d and disgusted with it knows not what—

‘ *Mar.* O *Lucia*, I’m perplex’d, Oh, tell me which

‘ I must hereafter call my happy brother ?’

*Luc.* Suppose ’twere *Portius*, could you blame my choice ?

——O *Portius*, thou hast stol’n away my soul !

‘ With what a graceful tenderness he loves !

‘ And breathes the softest, the sincerest vows !

‘ Complacency, and truth, and manly sweetness,

‘ Dwell ever on his tongue, and smooth his thoughts.’

*Marcus* is over-warm, his fond complaints

Have so much earnestness and passion in them,

I hear him with a secret kind of horror,

And tremble at his vehemence of temper.

*Mar.* Alas, poor youth ! ‘ how canst you throw him from thee ?

‘ *Lucia*, thou know’st not half the love he bears thee ?

‘ Whene’er he speaks of thee, his heart’s in flames,

‘ He sends out all his soul in ev’ry word,

‘ And thinks, and talks, and looks like one transported.

‘ Unhappy youth !’ How will thy coldness raise

Tempests and storms in his afflicted bosom !

I dread the consequence.

*Luc.* You seem to plead

Against your brother *Portius*.

*Mar.* Heav’n forbid !

Had *Portius* been the unsuccessful lover,

The same compassion would have fall’n on him.

*Luc.* Was ever virgin love distressed like mine !

*Portius* himself oft falls in tears before me,

As if he mourn’d his rival’s ill success,

Then bids me hide the motions of my heart,

Nor shew which way it turns. So much he fears !

The sad effects that it will have on *Marcus*.

‘ *Mar.* He knows too well how easily he’s fir’d,  
 ‘ And wou’d not plunge his brother in despair,  
 ‘ But waits for happier times, and kinder moments.

‘ *Luc.* Alas, too late I find myself involv’d  
 ‘ In endless griefs, and labyrinths of woe,  
 ‘ Born to afflict my *Marcia*’s family,  
 ‘ And sow dissention in the hearts of brothers.  
 ‘ Tormenting thought! it cuts into my soul.’

*Mar.* Let us not, *Lucia*, aggravate our sorrows,  
 But to the gods submit th’ event of things.  
 Our lives, discolour’d with our present woes,  
 May still grow bright, and smile with happier hours.

So the pure limpid stream, when foul with stains  
 Of rushing torrents, and descending rains,  
 Works itself clear, and as it runs, refines,  
 ’Till, by degrees, the floating mirror shines,  
 Reflects each flow’r that on the border grows,  
 And a new heav’n in its fair bosom shows. [Exeunt.

## A C T II.

SCENE, *the Senate.* *Lucius, Sempronius, and  
 Senators.*

*Sem.* **R**OME still survives in this assembled senate!  
 Let us remember we are *Cato*’s friends,  
 And act like men who claim that glorious title.

*Luc.* *Cato* will soon be here, and open to us  
 Th’ occasion of our meeting. Hark! he comes!

[A sound of trumpets.

May all the guardian gods of *Rome* direct him!

*Enter Cato.*

*Cato.* Fathers, we once again are met in council;  
*Cæsar*’s approach has summon’d us together,  
 And *Rome* attends her fate from our resolves.

How shall we treat this bold aspiring man?

Success still follows him, and backs his crimes;

*Pharsalia* gave him *Rome*, *Egypt* has since

Receiv’d his yoke, and the whole *Nile* is *Cæsar*’s.

Why

Why should I mention *Juba's* overthrow,  
 And *Scipio's* death? *Numidia's* burning sands  
 Still smoke with blood: 'Tis time we should decree  
 What course to take. Our foe advances on us,  
 And envies us even *Lybia's* sultry desarts.  
 Fathers, pronounce your thoughts: are they still fix'd  
 To hold it out and fight it to the last?  
 Or are your hearts subdu'd at length, and wrought  
 By time, and ill success, to a submission?  
*Sempronius*, speak.

*Sem.* My voice is still for war.  
 Gods! can a *Roman* senate long debate  
 Which of the two to choose, slav'ry or death?  
 No, let us rise at once, gird on our swords,  
 And at the head of our remaining troops,  
 Attack the foe, break through the thick array  
 Of his throng'd legions, and charge home upon him.  
 Perhaps some arm, more lucky than the rest,  
 May reach his heart, and free the world from bondage.  
 Rise, fathers, rise! 'tis *Rome* demands your help;  
 Rise, and revenge her slaughter'd citizens,  
 Or share their fate! the corps of half her senate  
 Manure the fields of *Thessaly*, while we  
 Sit here delib'rating in cold debates,  
 If we should sacrifice our lives to honour,  
 Or wear them out in servitude and chains.  
 Rouse up, for shame! our brothers of *Pharsalia*  
 Point at their wounds, and cry aloud—To battle!  
 Great *Pompey's* shade complains that we are slow;  
 And *Scipio's* ghost walks unreveng'd amongst us.

*Cato.* Let not a torrent of impetuous zeal  
 Transport thee thus beyond the bounds of reason:  
 True fortitude is seen in great exploits  
 That justice warrants, and that wisdom guides,  
 All else is tow'ring frenzy and distraction.  
 Are not the lives of those who draw the sword  
 In *Rome's* defence intrusted to our care?  
 Should we thus lead them to a field of slaughter,  
 Might not th' impartial world with reason say,  
 We lavish'd at our deaths the blood of thousands,  
 To grace our fall, and make our ruin glorious?  
*Lucius*, we next would know what's your opinion.

*Luc.* My thoughts, I must confess, are turn'd on peace.  
 Already have our quarrels fill'd the world  
 With widows, and with orphans: *Scythia* mourns  
 Our guilty wars, and earth's remotest regions  
 Lie half unpeopled by the feuds of *Rome*:  
 'Tis time to sheath the sword, and spare mankind.  
 It is not *Cæsar*, but the gods, my fathers,  
 The gods declare against us, and repel  
 Our vain attempts. 'To urge the foe to battle,  
 ' (Prompted by blind revenge and wild despair)  
 ' Were to refuse th' awards of Providence,  
 ' And not to rest in Heav'n's determination.'  
 Already have we shewn our love to *Rome*,  
 Now let us shew submission to the gods.  
 We took up arms, not to revenge ourselves,  
 But free the commonwealth; when this end fails,  
 Arms have no farther use. Our country's cause,  
 That drew our swords, now wrests 'em from our hands,  
 And bids us not delight in *Roman* blood  
 Unprofitably shed. What men could do,  
 Is done already: Heav'n and earth will witness,  
 If *Rome* must fall, that we are innocent.

' *Sen.* This smooth discourse, and mild behaviour, oft  
 ' Conceal a traitor—something whispers me  
 ' All is not right—*Cato*, beware of *Lucius*.

' [*Afide to Cato.*]

*Cato.* Let us appear nor rash nor diffident;  
 Immod'rate valour swells into a fault;  
 And fear admitted into public councils  
 Betrays like treason. Let us shun 'em both.  
 Fathers, I cannot see that our affairs  
 Are grown thus desp'rate; we have bulwarks round us;  
 Within our walls are troops inur'd to toil  
 In *Afric*'s heat, and season'd to the sun;  
*Numidia*'s spacious kingdom lies behind us,  
 Ready to rise at its young prince's call.  
 While there is hope, do not distrust the gods:  
 But wait at least 'till *Cæsar*'s near approach  
 Force us to yield. 'Twill never be too late  
 To sue for chains, and own a conqueror.

Why

Why should *Rome* fall a moment ere her time?  
 No, let us draw her term of freedom out  
 In its full length, and spin it to the last,  
 So shall we gain still one day's liberty:  
 And let me perish, but in *Cato's* judgment,  
 A day, an hour of virtuous liberty,  
 Is worth a whole eternity in bondage.

*Enter Marcus.*

*Mar.* Fathers, this moment, as I watch'd the gate,  
 Lodg'd on my post, a herâld is arriv'd  
 From *Cæsar's* camp, and with him comes old *Decius*;  
 'The *Roman* knight; he carries in his looks  
 Impatience, and demands to speak with *Cato*.

*Cato.* By your permission, fathers—bid him enter.  
 [*Exit Marcus.*]

*Decius* was once my friend, but other prospects  
 Have loos'd those ties, and bound him fast to *Cæsar*.  
 His message may determine our resolves.

*Enter Decius.*

*Dec.* *Cæsar* sends health to *Cato*—

*Cato.* Cou'd he send it  
 To *Cato's* slaughter'd friends, it would be welcome.  
 Are not your orders to address the senate?

*Dec.* My business is with *Cato*; *Cæsar* sees  
 The straits to which you are driven; and, as he knows  
*Cato's* high worth, is anxious for your life.

*Cato.* My life is grafted on the fate of *Rome*.  
 Wou'd he save *Cato*, bid him spare his country.  
 Tell your dictator this; and tell him, *Cato*  
 Disdains a life, which he has power to offer.

*Dec.* *Rome* and her senators submit to *Cæsar*;  
 Her gen'als and her consuls are no more,  
 Who check'd his conquests, and deny'd his triumphs.  
 Why will not *Cato* be this *Cæsar's* friend?

*Cato.* Those very reasons thou hast urg'd, forbid it.

*Dec.* *Cato*, I've orders to expostulate,  
 And reason with you, as from friend to friend:  
 Think on the storm that gathers o'er your head,  
 And threatens ev'ry hour to burst upon it;  
 Still may you stand high in your country's honours,  
 Do but comply, and make your peace with *Cæsar*.

*Rome* will rejoice, and cast its eyes on *Cato*,  
As on the second of mankind.

*Cato*. No more :

I must not think of life on such conditions.

*Dec. Cæsar* is well acquainted with your virtues,  
And therefore sets this value on your life.

Let him but know the price of *Cato's* friendship,  
And name your terms.

*Cato*. Bid him disband his legions,  
Restore the commonwealth to liberty,  
Submit his actions to the public censure,  
And stand the judgment of a *Roman* senate.  
Bid him do this, and *Cato* is his friend.

*Dec. Cato*, the world talks loudly of your wisdom—

*Cato*. Nay, more, tho' *Cato's* voice was ne'er employ'd  
To clear the guilty, and to varnish crimes,  
Myself will mount the rostrum in his favour,  
And strive to gain his pardon from the people.

*Dec.* A style like this, becomes a conqueror.

*Cato. Decius*, a style, like this, becomes a *Roman*.

*Dec.* What is a *Roman*, that is *Cæsar's* foe?

*Cato*. Greater than *Cæsar*: he's a friend to virtue.

*Dec.* Consider, *Cato*, you're in *Utica*,  
And at the head of your own little senate;  
You don't now thunder in the capitol,  
With all the mouths of *Rome* to second you.

*Cato*. Let him consider that, who drives us hither?  
'Tis *Cæsar's* sword has made *Rome's* senate little,  
And thinn'd its ranks. Alas! thy dazzled eye  
Beholds this man in a false glaring light,  
Which conquest and success have thrown upon him;  
Did'st thou but view him right, thou'dst see him black  
With murder, treason, sacrilege, and crimes,  
That strike my soul with horror but to name 'em.  
I know thou look'st on me, as on a wretch  
Beset with ills, and cover'd with misfortunes;  
But, by the gods I swear, millions of worlds  
Shou'd never buy me to be like that *Cæsar*.

*Dec.* Does *Cato* send this answer back to *Cæsar*,  
For all his gen'rous cares and proffer'd friendship?

*Cato*. His cares for me are insolent and vain:

Presum-

Presumptuous man ! the gods take care of *Cato*.  
 Wou'd *Cæsar* shew the greatness of his soul,  
 Bid him employ his care for these my friends,  
 And make good use of his ill-gotten pow'r,  
 By shelt'ring men much better than himself.

*Dec.* Your high unconquer'd heart makes you forget  
 You are a man, you rush on your destruction.  
 But-I have done. When I relate hereafter  
 The tale of this unhappy embassy,  
 All *Rome* will be in tears. [Exit Decius.

*Sem.* *Cato*, we thank thee.  
 The mighty genius of immortal *Rome*  
 Speaks in thy voice ; thy soul breathes liberty.  
*Cæsar* will shrink to hear the words thou utter'st,  
 And shudder in the midst of all his conquests.

*Luc.* The senate owns its gratitude to *Cato*,  
 Who with so great a soul consults its safety,  
 And guards our lives while he neglects his own.

*Sem.* *Sempronius* gives no thanks on this account.

*Lucius* seems fond of life ; but what is life ?

'Tis not to stalk about, and draw fresh air  
 From time to time, or gaze upon the sun ;

'Tis to be free. When liberty is gone,  
 Life grows insipid, and has lost its relish.

Oh, could my dying hand but lodge a sword  
 In *Cæsar*'s bosom, and revenge my country !  
 By Heav'ns I could enjoy the pangs of death,  
 And smile in agony.

*Luc.* Others, perhaps,  
 May serve their country with as warm a zeal,  
 Tho' 'tis not kindled into so much rage.

*Sem.* This sober conduct is a mighty virtue  
 In lukewarm patriots.

*Cato.* Come ; no more, *Sempronius*,  
 All here are friends to *Rome*, and to each other.  
 Let us not weaken still the weaker side  
 By our divisions.

*Sem.* *Cato*, my resentments  
 Are sacrific'd to *Rome*—I stand reprov'd.

*Cato.* Fathers 'tis time you come to a resolve.

*Luc.* *Cato*, we all go into your opinion,

*Cæsar's* behaviour has convinc'd the senate  
We ought to hold it out till terms arrive.

*Sem.* We ought to hold it out 'till death; but, *Cato*,  
My private voice is drown'd amidst the senate's.

*Cato.* Then let us rise, my friends, and strive to fill  
This little interval, this pause of life,  
(While yet our liberty and fates are doubtful)  
With resolution, friendship, *Roman* bravery,  
And all the virtues we can crowd into it;  
That Heav'n may say it ought to be prolong'd.  
Fathers, farewell—The young *Numidian* prince  
Comes forward, and expects to know our counsels.

[*Exeunt* senators.]

*Enter* Juba.

*Juba*, the *Roman* senate has resolv'd,  
Till time give better prospects, still to keep  
The sword unsheath'd, and turn its edge on *Cæsar*.

*Jub.* The resolution fits a *Roman* senate.  
But, *Cato*, lend me for a while thy patience,  
And condescend to hear a young man speak.  
My father, when some days before his death  
He order'd me to march for *Utica*,  
(Alas! I thought not then his death so near!)  
Wept o'er me, press'd me in his aged arms,  
And, as his griefs gave way, my son, said he,  
Whatever fortune shall befall thy father,  
Be *Cato's* friend; he'll train thee up to great  
And virtuous deeds; do but observe him well,  
'Thou'lt shun misfortunes, or thou'lt learn to bear 'em.

*Cato.* *Juba*, thy father was a worthy prince,  
And merited, alas! a better fate;  
But Heav'n thought otherwise.

*Jub.* My father's fate,  
In spite of all the fortitude that shines  
Before my face in *Cato's* great example,  
Subdues my soul, and fills my eyes with tears.

*Cato.* It is an honest sorrow, and becomes thee.

*Jub.* My father drew respect from foreign climes:  
The kings of *Afric* sought him for their friend;  
'Kings far remote, that rule, as fame reports,  
'Behind the hidden sources of the *Nile*,  
'In distant worlds, on t'other sides the sun;'

Oft have their black ambassadors appear'd,  
Loaden with gifts, and fill'd the courts of *Zama*.

*Cato*. I am no stranger to thy father's greatness.

*Jub*. I would not boast the greatness of my father,  
But point out new alliances to *Cato*.  
Had we not better leave this *Utica*,  
To arm *Numidia* in our cause, and court  
Th' assistance of my father's powerful friends;  
Did they know *Cato*, our remotest kings  
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;  
Their swarthy hosts would darken all our plains,  
Doubling the native horror of the war,  
And making death more grim.

*Cato*. And canst thou think

*Cato* will fly before the sword of *Cæsar*!  
Reduc'd, like *Hannibal*, to seek relief  
From court to court, and wander up and down  
A vagabond in *Afric*.

*Jub*. *Cato*, perhaps.

I'm too officious; but my forward cares  
Wou'd fain preserve a life of so much value.  
My heart is wounded, when I see such virtue  
Afflicted by the weight of such misfortunes.

*Cato*. Thy nobleness of soul obliges me.

But know, young prince, that valour soars above  
What the world calls misfortune and affliction.  
These are not ills; else would they never fall  
On Heav'n's first fav'rites and the best of men.  
The gods, in bounty, work up storms about us,  
That give mankind occasion to exert  
Their hidden strength, and throw out into practice  
Virtues which shun the day, and lie conceal'd  
In the smooth seasons and the calms of life.

*Jub*. I'm charm'd whene'er thou talk'st; I pant for  
virtue;

And all my soul endeavours at perfection.

*Cato*. Dost thou love watchings, abstinence, and toil,  
Laborious virtues all? Learn them from *Cato*;  
Success and fortune must thou learn from *Cæsar*.

*Jub*. The best good fortune that can fall on *Juba*,

The whole success at which my heart aspires,  
Depends on *Cato*.

*Cato*. What does *Juba* say?  
Thy words confound me.

*Jub*. I would fain retract them,  
Give 'em me back again : they aim'd at nothing.

*Cato*. Tell me thy wish, young prince ; make not my  
A stranger to thy thoughts. [ear

*Jub*. Oh ! they're extravagant ;  
Still let me hide them.

*Cato*. What can *Juba* ask  
That *Cato* will refuse ?

*Jub*. I fear to name it,  
*Marcia*—inherits all her father's virtues.

*Cato*. What would'st thou say ?

*Jub*. *Cato*, thou hast a daughter.

*Cato*. Adieu, young prince ; I would not hear a word  
Should lessen thee in my esteem. Remember  
The hand of fate is over us, and Heav'n  
Exacts severity from all our thoughts.  
It is not now a time to talk of ought  
But chains, or conquest ; liberty, or death. [Exit.

Enter *Syphax*.

*Sy*. How's this, my prince ! What, cover'd with con-  
You look as if yon stern philosopher [fusion ?  
Had just now chid you.

*Jub*. *Syphax*, I'm undone !

*Sy*. I know it well.

*Jub*. *Cato* thinks meanly of me.

*Sy*. And so will all mankind.

*Jub*. I've open'd to him  
The weakness of my soul, my love for *Marcia*.

*Sy*. *Cato*'s a proper person to intrust  
A love-tale with !

*Jub*. Oh, I could pierce my heart,  
My foolish heart. Was ever wretch like *Juba* !

*Sy*. Alas, my prince, how are you chang'd of late !  
I've known young *Juba* rise before the sun,  
To beat the thicket where the tiger slept,  
Or seek the lion in his dreadful haunts :  
How did the colour mount into your cheeks,

When

When first you rous'd him to the chace ! I've seen you,  
 Ev'n in the *Lybian* dog-days, hunt him down,  
 Then charge him close, provoke him to the rage  
 Of fangs and claws, and, stooping from your horse,  
 Rivet the panting savage to the ground.

*Jub.* Pr'ythee, no more.

*Sy.* How would the old king smile  
 To see you weigh the paws, when tipp'd with gold,  
 And throw the shaggy spoils about your shoulders !

*Jub.* *Syphax*, this old man's talk (tho' honey flow'd  
 In ev'ry word) wou'd now lose all its sweetness.  
*Cato's* displeas'd, and *Marcia* lost for ever.

*Sy.* Young prince, I yet could give you good advice,  
*Marcia* might still be yours.

*Jub.* What say'st thou, *Syphax* ?  
 By Heav'ns, thou turn'st me all into attention.

*Sy.* *Marcia* might still be yours.

*Jub.* As how, dear *Syphax* ?

*Sy.* *Juba* commands *Numidia's* hardy troops,  
 Mounted on steeds unus'd to the restraint  
 Of curbs or bits, and fleetier than the winds.  
 Give but the word, we'll snatch this damsel up,  
 And bear her off.

*Jub.* Can such dishonest thoughts  
 Rise up in man ? Would'st thou seduce my youth  
 To do an act that would destroy my honour ?

*Sy.* Gods, I could tear my hair to hear you talk !  
 Honour's a fine imaginary notion,  
 That draws in raw and unexperienc'd men  
 To real mischiefs, while they hunt a shadow.

*Jub.* Would'st thou degrade thy prince into a ruffian ?

*Sy.* The boasted ancestors of these great men,  
 Whose virtues you admire, were all such ruffians.  
 This dread of nations, this almighty *Rome*,  
 That comprehends in her wide empire's bounds  
 All under Heav'n, was founded on a rape ;  
 Your *Scipios*, *Cæsars*, *Pompeys*, and your *Catos*,  
 (The gods on earth) are all the spurious brood  
 Of violated maids, of ravish'd *Sabines*.

*Jub.* *Syphax*, I fear that hoary head of thine  
 Abounds too much in our *Numidian* wiles.

*Sy.*

Sy. Indeed, my prince, you want to know the world.  
You have not read mankind; your youth admires  
The throes and swellings of a *Roman* soul,  
*Cato's* bold flights, th' extravagance of virtue.

*Jub.* If knowledge of the world makes man perfidious,  
May *Juba* ever live in ignorance!

Sy. Go, go; you're young.

*Jub.* Gods, must I tamely bear  
This arrogance unanswer'd! Thou'rt a traitor,  
A false old traitor.

Sy. I have gone too far. [Aside.

*Jub.* *Cato* shall know the baseness of thy soul.

Sy. I must appease this storm, or perish in it. [Aside.  
Young prince, behold these locks, that are grown white  
Beneath a helmet in your father's battles.

*Jub.* Those locks shall ne'er protect thy insolence.

Sy. Must one rash word, th' infirmity of age,  
Throw down the merit of my better years?  
This the reward of a whole life of service!  
—Curse on the boy! how steadily he hears me! [Aside.

*Jub.* Is it because the throne of my forefathers  
Still stands unfill'd, and that *Numidia's* crown  
Hangs doubtful yet whose head it shall inclose,  
Thou thus presum'st to treat thy prince with scorn?

Sy. Why will you rive my heart with such expressions?  
Does not old *Syphax* follow you to war?  
What are his aims? Why does he load with darts  
His trembling hand, and crush beneath a casque  
His wrinkled brows? What is it he aspires to?  
Is it not this? to shed the slow remains,  
His last poor cbb of blood in your defence?

*Jub.* *Syphax*, no more! I would not hear you talk.

Sy. Not hear me talk! what, when my faith to *Juba*,  
My royal master's son, is call'd in question?  
My prince may strike me dead, and I'll be dumb;  
But whilst I live I must not hold my tongue,  
And languish out old age in his displeasure.

*Jub.* Thou know'st the way too well into my heart.  
I do believe thee loyal to thy prince.

Sy. What greater instance can I give? I've offer'd

To

To do an action which my soul abhors,  
And gain you whom you love, at any price.

*Jub.* Was this thy motive? I have been too hasty.

*Sy.* And 'tis for this my prince has call'd me traitor.

*Jub.* Sure thou mistak'st; I did not call thee so.

*Sy.* You did, indeed, my prince, you call'd me traitor.

Nay, further, threaten'd you'd complain to *Cato*.

Of what, my prince, would you complain to *Cato*?

That *Syphax* loves you, and would sacrifice

His life, nay, more, his honour, in your service.

*Jub. Syphax*, I know thou lov'st me; but indeed  
Thy zeal for *Juba* carry'd thee too far.

Honour's a sacred tie, the law of kings,

The noble mind's distinguishing perfection,

That aids and strengthens virtue where it meets her,

And imitates her actions where she is not:

It ought not to be sported with.

*Sy.* By Heav'n's,

I'm ravish'd when you talk thus, tho' you chide me!

Alas! I've hitherto been us'd to think

A blind official zeal to serve my king

The ruling principle, that ought to burn

And quench all others in a subject's heart.

Happy the people who preserve their honour

By the same duties that oblige their prince.

*Jub. Syphax*, thou now begin'st to speak thyself.

*Numidia's* grown a scorn among the nations,

For breach of public vows. Our *Punic* faith

Is infamous, and branded to a proverb.

*Syphax*, we'll join our cares, to purge away

Our country's crimes, and clear her reputation.

*Sy.* Believe me, prince, you make old *Syphax* weep,

To hear you talk—but 'tis with tears of joy.

If e'er your father's crown adorn your brows,

*Numidia* will be blest by *Cato's* lectures.

*Jub. Syphax*, thy hand; we'll mutually forget

The warmth of youth, and frowardness of age;

Thy prince esteems thy worth, and loves thy person.

If e'er the scepter comes into my hand,

*Syphax* shall stand the second in my kingdom.

*Sy.*

*Sy.* Why will you overwhelm my age with kindness? My joy grows burdensome, I shan't support it.

*Jub.* *Syphax*, farewell. I'll hence, and try to find Some blest occasion that may set me right In *Cato's* thoughts. I'd rather have that man Approve my deeds, than worlds for my admirers. [*Exit.*

*Sy.* Young men soon give, and soon forget affronts; Old age is slow in both—A false old traitor!—

These words, rash boy, may chance to cost thee dear.

My heart had still some foolish fondness for thee:

But hence! 'tis gone: I give it to the winds:

*Cæsar*, I'm wholly thine.—

*Enter Sempronius.*

All hail, *Sempronius*!

Well, *Cato's* senate is resolv'd to wait

The fury of a siege before it yields.

*Sem.* *Syphax*, we both were on the verge of fate:

*Lucius* declar'd for peace, and terms were offer'd

To *Cato*, by a messenger from *Cæsar*.

Shou'd they submit ere our designs are ripe,

We both must perish in the common wreck,

Lost in the gen'ral undistinguish'd ruin.

*Sy.* But how stands *Cato*?

*Sem.* Thou hast seen mount *Atlas*:

Whilst storms and tempests thunder on its brows,

And oceans break their billows at its feet,

It stands unmov'd, and glories in its height:

Such is that haughty man; his tow'ring soul,

'Midst all the shocks and injuries of fortune,

Rises superior, and looks down on *Cæsar*.

*Sy.* But what's this messenger?

*Sem.* I've practis'd with him,

And found a means to let the victor know

That *Syphax* and *Sempronius* are his friends.

But let me now examine in my turn:

Is *Juba* fix'd?

*Sy.* Yes—but it is to *Cato*.

I've try'd the force of every reason on him,

Sooth'd and caress'd; been angry, sooth'd again;

Laid safety, life, and int'rest in his sight.

But all are vain, he scorns them all for *Cato*.

*Sem.*

*Sem.* Come, 'tis no matter; we shall do without him.  
He'll make a pretty figure in a triumph,  
And serve to trip before the victor's chariot.

*Syphax*, I now may hope thou hast forsook  
Thy *Juba's* cause, and wishest *Marcia* mine.

*Sy.* May she be thine as fast as thou wouldst have her.

*Sem.* *Syphax*, I love that woman; tho' I curse  
Her and myself, yet, spite of me, I love her.

*Sy.* Make *Cato* sure, and give up *Utica*,  
*Cæsar* will ne'er refuse thee such a trifle.

But are thy troops prepar'd for a revolt?  
Does the sedition catch from man to man,  
And run among their ranks?

*Sem.* All, all his ready,  
The factious leaders are our friends, that spread  
Murmurs and discontents among the soldiers;  
They count their toilsome marches, long fatigues,  
Unusual fastings, and will bear no more  
This medley of philosophy and war.  
Within an hour they'll storm the senate-house.

*Sy.* Mean while I'll draw up my *Numidian* troops  
Within the square, to exercise their arms,  
And as I see occasion, favour thee.  
I laugh to think how your unshaken *Cato*  
Will look aghast, while unforeseen destruction  
Pours in upon him thus from every side.

So, where our wide *Numidian* wastes extend,  
Sudden, th' impetuous hurricanes descend.  
Wheel through the air, in circling eddies play,  
Tear up the sands, and sweep whole plains away.  
The helpless traveller, with wild surprise  
Sees the dry desert all around him rise,  
And, smother'd in the dusty whirlwind, dies.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT

## A C T III.

*Enter Marcus and Portius,*

*Marc.* **T**HANKS to my stars, I have not rang'd about  
The wilds of life, ere I could find a friend;  
Nature first pointed out my *Portius* to me,  
And early taught me, by her secret force,  
To love thy person, ere I knew thy merit,  
Till what was instinct, grew up into friendship.

*Por.* *Marcus*, the friendships of the world are oft  
Confed'racies in vice, or leagues of pleasure;  
Ours has severest virtue for its basis,  
And such a friendship ends not but with life.

*Marc.* *Portius*, thou know'st my soul in all its weak-  
Then pr'ythee spare me on its tender side. [ness,  
Indulge me but in love, my other passions  
Shall rise and fall by virtue's nicest rules.

*Por.* When love's well-tim'd, 'tis not a fault to love.  
The strong, the brave, the virtuous, and the wise,  
Sink in the soft captivity together.  
I would not urge thee to dismiss thy passion,  
(I know 'twere vain) but to suppress its force,  
Till better times may make it look more graceful.

*Marc.* Alas! thou talk'st like one who never felt  
Th' impatient throbs and longings of a soul  
That pants and reaches after distant good.  
A lover does not live by vulgar time:  
Believe me, *Portius*, in my *Lucia*'s absence  
Life hangs upon me, and becomes a burden;  
And yet, when I behold the charming maid,  
I'm ten times more undone; while hope and fear,  
And grief, and rage, and love, rise up at once,  
And with variety of pain distract me.

*Por.* What can thy *Portius* do to give thee help?

*Marc.* *Portius*, thou oft enjoy'st the fair-one's pre-  
Then undertake my cause, and plead it to her [sence;  
With all the strength and heat of eloquence  
Fraternal love and friendship can inspire.

Tell

Tell her thy brother languishes to death,  
And fades away, and withers in his bloom;  
That he forgets his sleep, and loaths his food,  
That youth, and health, and war are joyless to him:  
Describe his anxious days, and restless nights,  
And all the torments that thou see'st me suffer.

*Por.* *Marcus*, I beg thee give me not an office  
That suits with me so ill. Thou know'st my temper.

*Marc.* Wilt thou behold me sinking in my woes,  
And wilt thou not reach out a friendly arm,  
To raise me from amidst this plunge of sorrows?

*Por.* *Marcus*, thou can'st not ask what I'd refuse.  
But here, believe me, I've a thousand reasons——

*Marc.* I know thou'lt say my passion's out of season,  
That *Cato's* great example and misfortunes  
Should both conspire to drive it from my thoughts.  
But what's all this to one that loves like me?

O *Portius*, *Portius*, from my soul I wish  
Thou didst but know thyself what 'tis to love!  
Then wouldst thou pity and assist thy brother.

*Por.* What should I do! If I disclose my passion  
Our friendship's at an end; if I conceal it,  
The world will call me false to a friend and brother.

[*Aside.*]

*Marc.* But see where *Lucia*, at her wonted hour,  
Amid the cool of yon high marble arch,  
Enjoys the noon-day breeze! Observe her, *Portius*;  
That face, that shape, those eyes, that heav'n of beauty!  
Observe her well, and blame me if thou canst.

*Por.* She sees us, and advances——

*Marc.* I'll withdraw,  
And leave you for a while. Remember, *Portius*,  
Thy brother's life depends upon thy tongue. [Exit.]

Enter *Lucia*.

*Luc.* Did not I see your brother *Marcus* here?  
Why did he fly the place, and shun my presence?

*Por.* O *Lucia*, language is too faint to shew

His rage of love; it preys upon his life;  
He pines, he sickens, he despairs, he dies:

His passions and his virtues lie confus'd,

And mixt together in so wild a tumult,

That

‘ That the whole man is quite disfigur’d in him.  
 ‘ Heavens! would one think ’twere possible for love  
 ‘ To make such ravage in a noble soul!’

O *Lucia*! I’m distrest; my heart bleeds for him:  
 Ev’n now, while thus I stand blest in thy presence,  
 A secret damp of grief comes o’er my thoughts,  
 And I’m unhappy, tho’ thou smil’st upon me.

*Luc.* How wilt thou guard thy honour, in the shock  
 Of love and friendship? Think betimes, my *Portius*,  
 Think how the nuptial tie, that might ensure  
 Our mutual bliss, would raise to such a height  
 Thy brother’s griefs, as might perhaps destroy him.

*Por.* Alas, poor youth! What dost thou think, my  
 His gen’rous, open, undefining heart [*Lucia?*  
 Has begg’d his rival to solicit for him;  
 Then do not strike him dead with a denial;  
 But hold him up in life, and cheer his soul  
 With the faint glimmering of a doubtful hope:  
 Perhaps when we have pass’d these gloomy hours,  
 And weather’d out the storm that beats upon us—

*Luc.* No, *Portius*, no; I see thy sister’s tears,  
 Thy father’s anguish, and thy brother’s death,  
 In the pursuit of our ill-fated loves:  
 And, *Portius*, here I swear, to Heav’n I swear,  
 To Heav’n and all the powers that judge mankind,  
 Never to mix my plighted hands with thine,  
 While such a cloud of mischiefs hangs about us,  
 But to forget our loves, and drive thee out  
 From all my thoughts as far—as I am able.

*Por.* What hast thou said! I’m thunder-struck—recall  
 Those hasty words, or I am lost for ever.

*Luc.* Has not the vow already pass’d my lips?  
 The gods have heard it, and ’tis seal’d in Heav’n.  
 May all the vengeance that was ever pour’d  
 On perjur’d heads o’erwhelm me, if I break it.

*Por.* Fix’d in astonishment, I gaze upon thee,  
 Like one just blasted by a stroke from Heav’n,  
 Who pants for breath, and stiffens, yet alive,  
 In dreadful looks; a monument of wrath!

‘ *Luc.* At length I’ve acted my severest part,  
 ‘ I feel the woman breaking in upon me,

• And

‘ And melt about my heart ; my tears will flow.  
 ‘ But Oh, I’ll think no more ! the hand of fate  
 ‘ Has torn thee from me, and I must forget thee.

‘ *Por.* Hard-hearted cruel maid !

‘ *Luc.* Oh, stop those sounds,  
 ‘ Those killing sounds ! Why dost thou frown upon me ?  
 ‘ My blood runs cold, my heart forgets to heave,  
 ‘ And life itself goes out at thy displeasure.  
 ‘ The gods forbid us to indulge our loves ;  
 ‘ But Oh ! I cannot bear thy hate, and live.

‘ *Por.* Talk not of love, thou never knewst its force,  
 ‘ I’ve been deluded, led into a dream  
 ‘ Of fancy’d blifs. O *Lucia*, cruel maid !  
 ‘ Thy dreadful vow, loaden with death, still sounds  
 ‘ In my stunn’d ears. What shall I say or do ?  
 ‘ Quick let us part ! Perdition’s in thy presence,  
 ‘ And horror dwells about thee !—Ha ! she faints ?  
 ‘ Wretch that I am, what has my rashness done !  
 ‘ *Lucia*, thou injur’d innocence ! thou best  
 ‘ And loveliest of thy sex ! awake, my *Lucia*,  
 ‘ Or *Portius* rushes on his sword to join thee.  
 ‘ —Her imprecations reach not to the tomb,  
 ‘ They shut not out society in death—  
 ‘ But ah ! she moves, life wanders up and down  
 ‘ Through all her face, and lights up ev’ry charm.

‘ *Luc.* O *Portius*, was this well—to frown on her  
 ‘ That lives upon thy smiles ? To call in doubt  
 ‘ The faith of one expiring at thy feet,  
 ‘ That loves thee more than ever woman lov’d ?  
 ‘ —What do I say ? My half-recover’d sense  
 ‘ Forgets the vow in which my soul is bound.  
 ‘ Destruction stands betwixt us ; we must part.

‘ *Por.* Name not the word, my frightened thoughts run  
 ‘ And startle into madness at the sound.’ [back,

*Luc.* ‘ What wouldst thou have me do ? Consider well  
 ‘ The train of ills our love would draw behind it.’  
 Think, *Portius*, think thou seest thy dying brother  
 Stabb’d at his heart, and all besmear’d with blood,  
 Storming at Heav’n and thee ! Thy awful fire  
 Sternly demands the cause, th’ accursed cause  
 That robs him of his son : poor *Marcia* trembles,

Then

'Then tears her hair, and frantic in her griefs,  
Calls out on *Lucia*. What could *Lucia* answer,  
Or how stand up in such a scene of sorrow?

*Por.* To my confusion, and eternal grief,  
I must approve the sentence that destroys me.  
'The mist that hung about my mind, clears up;  
'And now, athwart the terrors that thy vow  
'Has planted round thee, thou appear'st most fair,  
'More amiable, and risest in thy charms.  
'Loveliest of women! Heav'n is in thy soul;  
'Beauty and virtue shine for ever round thee,  
'Bright'ning each other: thou art all divine.'

*Luc. Portius*, no more; thy words shoot thro' my  
Melt my resolves, and turn me all to love. [heart,  
Why are those tears of fondness in thy eyes?  
Why heaves thy heart? Why swells thy soul with sor-  
It softens me too much—farewel, my *Portius*; [row?  
Farewel, tho' death is in the word,—for ever!

*Por.* Stay, *Lucia*, stay! What dost thou say? For ever?

*Luc.* Have I not sworn? If, *Portius*, thy success  
Must throw thy brother on his fate, farewel—  
Oh, how shall I repeat the word! for ever.

*Por.* 'Thus o'er the dying lamp th' unsteady flame  
'Hangs quiv'ring on a point, leaps off by fits,  
'And falls again, as loth to quit its hold.'  
—Thou must not go, my soul still hovers o'er thee,  
And can't get loose.

*Luc.* If the firm *Portius* shakes  
To hear of parting, think what *Lucia* suffers!

*Por.* 'Tis true, unruffled and serene, I've met  
The common accidents of life, but here  
Such an unlook'd-for storm of ills falls on me,  
It beats down all my strength. I cannot bear it.  
We must not part.

*Luc.* What dost thou say? Not part!  
Hast thou forgot the vow that I have made?  
Are there not Heav'ns, and gods, that thunder o'er us?  
—But see, thy brother *Marcus* bends this way:  
I sicken at the sight. Once more, farewel,  
Farewel, and know thou wrong'st me, if thou think'st  
Ever was love, or ever grief, like mine. [*Exit Lucia.*

*Enter*

*Enter Marcus.*

*Marc. Portius, what hopes? How stands she? Am I  
To life or death?* [doom'd

*Por. What wouldst thou have me say?*

*Marc. What means this pensive posture? Thou ap-  
Like one amaz'd and terrify'd.* [pear'd

*Por. I've reason.*

*Marc. Thy down-cast looks, and thy disorder'd  
Tell me my fate. I ask not the success* [thoughts,  
*My cause has found.*

*Por. I'm griev'd I undertook it.*

*Marc. What! does the barbarous maid insult my heart,  
My aching heart, and triumph in my pains?  
That I could cast her from my thoughts for ever!*

*Por. Away, you're too suspicious in your griefs;  
Lucia, though sworn never to think of love,  
Compassionates your pains, and pities you.*

*Marc. Compassionates my pains, and pities me!  
What is compassion, when 'tis void of love?  
Fool that I was to choose so cold a friend  
To urge my cause!—Compassionates my pains!  
Pr'ythee what art, what rhet'ric didst thou use  
To gain this mighty boon?—She pities me!  
To one that asks the warm returns of love,  
Compassion's cruelty, 'tis scorn, 'tis death—*

*Por. Marcus, no more; have I deserv'd this treatment?*

*Marc. What have I said! O Portius, Oh! forgive me;  
A soul exasperated in ill falls out  
With ev'ry thing, its friend, itself—but hah!  
What means that shout, big with the sounds of war?  
What new alarm?*

*Por. A second, louder yet,  
Swells in the winds, and comes more full upon us.*

*Marc. Oh, for some glorious cause to fall in battle!  
Lucia, thou hast undone me; thy disdain  
Has broke my heart: 'tis death must give me ease.*

*Por. Quick, let us hence. Who knows if Cato's life  
Stands sure? O Marcus, I am warm'd, my heart  
Leaps at the trumpet's voice, and burns for glory.*

[*Exeunt.*

*Enter*

*Enter Sempronius, with the Leaders of the Mutiny.*

*Sem.* At length the winds are rais'd, the storm blows  
Be it your care, my friends, to keep it up [high,  
In its full fury, and direct it right,  
Till it has spent itself on *Cato's* head.

Mean while I'll herd among his friends, and seem  
One of the number, that whate'er arrive,  
My friends, and fellow-soldiers may be safe. [*Exit,*

*1st Lead.* We are all safe, *Sempronius* is our friend.  
*Sempronius* is as brave a man as *Cato*.

But hark! he enters. Bear up boldly to him;  
Be sure you beat him down, and bind him fast.  
This day will end our toils, and give us rest:  
Fear nothing, for *Sempronius* is our friend.

*Re-enter Sempronius, with Cato, Lucius, Portius, and  
Marcus.*

*Cato.* Where are those bold intrepid sons of war,  
That greatly turn their backs upon the foe,  
And to their general send a brave defiance?

*Sem.* Curse on their dastard souls, they stand astonish'd.  
[*Aside.*

*Cato.* Perfidious men! And will you thus dishonour  
Your past exploits, and fully all your wars?  
Do you confess 'twas not a zeal for *Rome*,  
Nor love of liberty, nor thirst of honour,  
Drew you thus far; but hopes to share the spoil  
Of conquer'd towns, and plunder'd provinces?  
Fir'd with such motives, you do well to join  
With *Cato's* foes, and follow *Cæsar's* banners.  
Why did I 'scape th' envenom'd aspic's rage,  
And all the fiery monsters of the desert,  
To see this day? Why could not *Cato* fall  
Without your guilt! Behold, ungrateful men,  
Behold my bosom naked to your swords,  
And let the man that's injur'd strike the blow.  
Which of you all suspects that he is wrong'd,  
Or thinks he suffers greater ills than *Cato*?  
Am I distinguish'd from you but by toils,  
Superior toils, and heavier weight of cares?  
Painful pre-eminence!

*Sem.*

*Sem.* By Heav'n's they droop!  
 Confusion to the villains; all is lost. [*Aside.*]

*Cato.* Have you forgotten *Libya's* burning waste,  
 Its barren rocks, parch'd earth, and hills of sand,  
 Its tainted air, and all its broods of poison?  
 Who was the first to explore th' untrodden path,  
 When life was hazarded in ev'ry step?  
 Or, fainting in the long laborious march,  
 When on the banks of an unlook'd-for stream  
 You sunk the river with repeated draughts,  
 Who was the last in all your host that thirsted?

*Sem.* If some penurious source by chance appear'd,  
 Scanty of waters, when you scoop'd it dry,  
 And offer'd the full helmet up to *Cato*,  
 Did he not dash th' untasted moisture from him?  
 Did he not lead you through the mid-day sun,  
 And clouds of dust? Did not his temples glow  
 In the same sultry winds, and scorching heat?

*Cato.* Hence, worthless men! hence! and complain  
 You could not undergo the toil of war, [*to Cæsar,*  
 Nor bear the hardships that your leader bore.

*Luc.* See, *Cato*, see the unhappy men; they weep!  
 Fear and remorse, and sorrow for their crime,  
 Appear in ev'ry look, and plead for mercy.

*Cato.* Learn to be honest men, give up your leaders,  
 And pardon shall descend on all the rest.

*Sem.* *Cato*, commit these wretches to my care:  
 First let 'em each be broken on the rack,  
 Then with what life remains, impal'd and left  
 To writhe at leisure round the bloody stake,  
 There let 'em hang, and taint the southern wind.  
 The partners of their crime will learn obedience,  
 When they look up and see their fellow traitors  
 Stuck on a fork, and black'ning in the sun.

' *Luc. Sempronius*, why, why wilt thou urge the fate  
 ' Of wretched men?

' *Sem.* How! wouldst thou clear rebellion?  
 ' *Lucius* (good man) pities the poor offenders  
 ' That would imbrue their hands in *Cato's* blood.'

*Cato.* Forbear, *Sempronius*!—see they suffer death,  
 But in their deaths remember they are men;

Strain not the laws to make their tortures grievous.

*Lucius*, the base degen'rate age requires

Severity, and justice in its rigour:

This awes an impious, bold offending world,  
Commands obedience, and gives force to laws.  
When by just vengeance guilty mortals perish,  
The gods behold the punishment with pleasure,  
And lay th' uplifted thunderbolt aside.

*Sem.* *Cato*, I execute thy will with pleasure.

*Cato*. Meanwhile we'll sacrifice to liberty.

Remember, O my friends, the laws, the rights,  
The gen'rous plan of pow'r deliver'd down,  
From age to age, by your renown'd forefathers,  
(So dearly bought, the price of so much blood:)

Oh, let it never perish in your hands!

But piously transmit it to your children.

Do thou, great liberty, inspire our souls,  
And make our lives in thy possession happy,  
Or our deaths glorious in thy just defence..

[*Exeunt Cato, &c.*]

*1st Leader.* *Sempronius*, you have acted like yourself.

One would have thought you had been half in earnest.

*Sem.* Villain, stand off, base, grov'ling, worthless  
wretches,

Mongrels in faction, poor faint-hearted traitors!

*2d Lead.* Nay, now you carry it too far, *Sempronius*;  
Throw off the mask, there are none here but friends.

*Sem.* Know, villains, when such paltry slaves presume  
To mix in treason, if the plot succeeds,  
They're thrown neglected by: but if it fails,  
They're sure to die like dogs, as you shall do.  
Here, take these factious monsters, drag 'em forth  
To sudden death.

*1st Lead.* Nay, since it comes to this——

*Sem.* Dispatch 'em quick, but first pluck out their  
tongues,

Left with their dying breath they sow sedition.

[*Exeunt Guards, with the Leaders.*]

*Enter Syphax.*

*Sy.* Our first design, my friend, has prov'd abortive:  
Still their remains an after-game to play;

My

My troops are mounted; their *Numidian* steeds  
 Snuff up the wind, and long to scour the desert:  
 Let but *Sempronius* head us in our flight,  
 We'll force the gate where *Marcus* keeps his guard,  
 And hew down all that would oppose our passage.  
 A day will bring us into *Cæsar's* camp.

*Sem.* Confusion! I have fail'd of half my purpose;  
*Marcia*, the charming *Marcia's* left behind!

*Sy.* How! will *Sempronius* turn a woman's slave?

*Sem.* Think not thy friend can ever feel the soft  
 Unmanly warmth and tenderness of love.

*Syphax*, I long to clasp that haughty maid,  
 And bend her stubborn virtue to my passion:  
 When I have gone thus far, I'd cast her off.

*Sy.* Well said! that's spoken like thyself, *Sempronius*.  
 What hinders, then, but that thou find her out,  
 And hurry her away by manly force.

*Sem.* But how to gain admission? For access  
 Is given to none but *Juba*, and her brothers.

*Sy.* Thou shalt have *Juba's* dress, and *Juba's* guards,  
 The doors will open when *Numidia's* prince  
 Seems to appear before the slaves that watch them.

*Sem.* Heav'ns, what a thought is there! *Marcia's* my  
 How will my bosom swell with anxious joy, [own!  
 When I behold her struggling in my arms,  
 With glowing beauty, and disorder'd charms,  
 While fear and anger, with alternate grace,  
 Pant in her breast, and vary in her face!  
 So *Pluto* seiz'd of *Proserpine*, convey'd  
 To hell's tremendous gloom th' affrighted maid,  
 There grimly smil'd, pleas'd with the beauteous prize,  
 Nor envy'd *Jove* his sunshine and his skies. [Exeunt.

## A C T IV.

*Enter Lucia and Marcia.*

*Luc.* **N**OW tell me, *Marcia*, tell me from thy soul,  
 If thou believ'st 'tis possible for woman  
 To suffer greater ills than *Lucia* suffers?

C 2

*Mar.*

*Mar.* O *Lucia*, *Lucia*, might my big swoln heart,  
Vent all its griefs, and give a loose to sorrow,  
*Marcia* could answer thee in sighs, keep pace  
With all thy woes, and count out tear for tear.

*Luc.* I know thou'rt doom'd alike to be belov'd  
By *Juba*, and thy father's friend *Sempronius* :  
But which of these has power to charm like *Portius* !

*Mar.* Still I must beg thee not to name *Sempronius*,  
*Lucia*, I like not that loud boist'rous man ;  
*Juba* to all the brav'ry of a hero  
Adds softest love and more than female sweetness ;  
*Juba* might make the proudest of our sex,  
Any of womankind, but *Marcia*, happy.

*Luc.* And why not, *Marcia* ? Come, you strive in vain  
To hide your thoughts from one who knows too well  
'The inward glowings of a heart in love.

*Mar.* While *Cato* lives, his daughter has no right  
To love or hate, but as his choice directs.

*Luc.* But should this father give you to *Sempronius* ?

*Mar.* I dare not think he will : but if he should—  
Why wilt thou add to all the griefs I suffer  
Imaginary ills, and fancy'd tortures ?  
I hear the sound of feet ! They march this way !  
Let us retire, and try if we can drown  
Each softer thought in sense of present danger :  
When love once pleads admission to our hearts  
(In spite of all the virtue we can boast)  
The woman that deliberates is lost,

[*Exeunt.*

*Enter Sempronius, dressed like Juba, with Numidian  
Guards.*

*Sem.* The deer is lodg'd, I've track'd her to her co-  
Be sure you mind the word, and when I give it [vert.  
Rush in at once, and seize upon your prey.  
Let not her cries or tears have force to move you.  
—How will the young *Numidian* rave to see  
His mistress lost ! If ought could glad my soul,  
Beyond th' enjoyment of so bright a prize,  
'Twould be to torture that young, gay barbarian.  
—But hark, what noise ! Death to my hopes ! 'tis he,  
'Tis *Juba*'s self ! there is but one way left—  
He must be murder'd, and a passage cut

Through

Through those his guards—Hah, dastards, do you tremble!——

Or act like men, or by yon azure Heaven——

*Enter Juba.*

*Jub.* What do I see? Who's this, that dares usurp  
The guards and habit of *Numidia's* prince?

*Sem.* One that was born to scourge thy arrogance,  
Presumptuous youth!

*Jub.* What can this mean? *Sempronius!*

*Sem.* My sword shall answer thee. Have at thy heart.

*Jub.* Nay, then beware thy own, proud, barbarous  
man. [*They fight, Sem. falls. His guards surrender.*]

*Sem.* Curse on my stars! am I then doom'd to fall  
By a boy's hand, disfigur'd in a vile  
*Numidian* dress, and for a worthless woman?  
Gods, I'm distracted! this my close of life!  
Oh, for a peal of thunder that would make  
Earth, sea, and air, and Heav'n, and *Cato* tremble! [*Dies.*]

*Jub.* With what a spring his furious soul broke loose,  
And left the limbs still quiv'ring on the ground!

Hence let us carry off those slaves to *Cato*,

That we may there at length unravel all

This dark design, this mystery of fate.

[*Exit Juba, with prisoners, &c.*]

*Enter Lucia and Marcia.*

*Luc.* Sure 'twas the clash of swords; my troubled heart  
Is so cast down, and sunk amidst its sorrows,  
It throbs with fear, and aches at every sound.

O *Marcia*, should thy brothers for my sake!—

I die away with horror at the thought.

*Mar.* See, *Lucia*, see! here's blood! here's blood  
and murder!

Hah! a *Numidian*! Heav'n preserve the prince!

The face lies muffled up within the garment,

But, hah! death to my sight! a diadem,

And royal robes! O gods! 'tis he, 'tis he!

'*Juba*, the loveliest youth that ever warm'd

'A virgin's heart,' *Juba* lies dead before us!

*Luc.* Now, *Marcia*, now call up to thy assistance

Thy wonted strength and constancy of mind,

Thou can'st not put it to a greater trial.

*Mar.* *Lucia*, look there, and wonder at my patience ;  
Have I not cause to rave, and beat my breast,  
To rend my heart with grief, and run distracted !

*Luc.* What can I think or say to give thee comfort ?

*Mar.* Talk not of comfort, 'tis for lighter ills :  
Behold a sight that strikes all comfort dead.

*Enter Juba listening.*

I will indulge my sorrows, and give way  
To all the pangs and fury of despair ;  
That man, that best of men, deserv'd it from me.

*Jub.* What do I hear ? And was the false *Sempronius*  
That best of men ? Oh, had I fall'n like him,  
And cou'd have thus been mourn'd, I had been happy.

*Luc.* Here will I stand, companion in thy woes,  
' And help thee with my tears ; when I behold  
' A loss like thine, I half forget my own.'

*Mar.* 'Tis not in fate to ease my tortur'd breast.  
' This empty world, to me a joyless desert,  
' Has nothing left to make poor *Marcia* happy.

*Jub.* I'm on the rack ! was he so near her heart ?

*Mar.* Oh, he was all made up of love and charms !  
' Whatever maid could wish, or man admire :  
' Delight of every eye ; when he appear'd,  
' A secret pleasure gladen'd all that saw him ;  
' But when he talk'd, the proudest *Roman* blush'd  
' To hear his virtues, and old age grew wise.

*Jub.* I shall run mad——'

*Mar.* O *Juba* ! *Juba* ! *Juba* ! [*Aside.*

*Jub.* What means that voice ? Did she not call on *Juba* ?

*Mar.* ' Why do I think on what he was ! he's dead !  
' He's dead, and never knew how much I lov'd him.'

*Lucia*, who knows but his poor bleeding heart,  
Amidst its agonies, remember'd *Marcia*,  
And the last words he utter'd call me cruel !  
Alas ! he knew not, hapless youth, he knew not  
*Marcia's* whose soul was full of love and *Juba* !

*Jub.* Where am I ? Do I live ? or am indeed  
What *Marcia* thinks ? All is *Elysium* round me ! [*Aside.*

*Mar.* Ye dear remains of the most lov'd of men,  
Nor modesty nor virtue here forbid  
A last embrace, while thus——

*Jub.*

*Jub.* See, *Marcia*, see [Throwing himself before her.  
The happy *Juba* lives! He lives to catch  
That dear embrace, and to return it too  
With mutual warmth and eagerness of love.

*Mar.* With pleasure and amaze I stand transported!  
'Sure 'tis a dream! dead and alive at once!  
If thou art *Juba*, who lies there?

*Jub.* A wretch,  
Disguis'd like *Juba* on a curst design.  
'The tale is long, nor have I heard it out:  
'Thy father knows it all.' I could not bear  
To leave thee in thy neighbourhood of death,  
But flew, in all the haste of love, to find thee;  
I found thee weeping, and confess this once,  
Am rapt with joy to see my *Marcia's* tears.

*Mar.* I've been surpris'd in an unguarded hour,  
But must not now go back; the love that lay  
Half smother'd in my breast, has broke through all  
Its weak restraints, and burns in its full lustre.  
I cannot, if I would, conceal it from thee.

'*Jub.* I'm lost in extasy; and dost thou love,  
'Thou charming maid——

'*Mar.* And dost thou live to ask it?

'*Jub.* This, this is life indeed! life worth preserving,  
'Such life as *Juba* never felt 'till now!

'*Mar.* Believe me, prince, before I thought thee dead,  
'I did not know myself how much I lov'd thee.

'*Jub.* O fortunate mistake!

'*Mar.* O happy *Marcia*!

*Jub.* My joy, my best belov'd, my only wish!  
How shall I speak the transport of my soul!

*Mar.* *Lucia*, thy arm. 'Oh, let me rest upon it!  
'The vital blood, that had forsook my heart,  
'Returns again in such tumultuous tides,  
'It quite o'ercomes me.' Lead to my apartment.—  
O prince! I blush to think what I have said,  
But fate has wrested the confession from me;  
Go on, and prosper in the paths of honour.  
Thy virtue will excuse my passion for thee,  
And make the gods propitious to our love.

[Exeunt *Mar.* and *Luc.*

*Jub.* I am so blest, I fear 'tis all a dream.  
 Fortune, thou now hast made amends for all  
 Thy past unkindness: I absolve my stars.  
 What tho' *Numidia* add her conquer'd towns  
 And provinces to swell the victor's triumph,  
*Juba* will never at his fate repine:  
 Let *Cæsar* have the world, if *Marcia's* mine. [Exit.

*A march at a distance.*

*Enter Cato and Lucius.*

*Luc.* I stand astonish'd! What, the bold *Sempronius*,  
 That still broke foremost thro' the crowd of patriots,  
 As with a hurricane of zeal transported,  
 And virtuous even to madness—

*Cato.* Trust me, *Lucius*,  
 Our civil discords have produc'd such crimes,  
 Such monstrous crimes, I am surpriz'd at nothing.  
 —O *Lucius*, I am sick of this bad world!  
 The day-light and the sun grow painful to me.

*Enter Portius*

But see where *Portius* comes: what means this haste?  
 Why are thy looks thus chang'd?

*Por.* My heart is griev'd,  
 I bring such news as will afflict my father.

*Cato.* Has *Cæsar* shed more *Roman* blood?

*Por.* Not so.

The traitor *Syphax*, as within the square  
 He exercis'd his troops, the signal given,  
 Flew off at once with his *Numidian* horse  
 To the south gate, where *Marcus* holds the watch;  
 I saw, and call'd to stop him, but in vain:  
 He toss'd his arm aloft, and proudly told me,  
 He would not stay and perish like *Sempronius*.

*Cato.* Perfidious man! But haste, my son, and see  
 Thy brother *Marcus* acts a *Roman's* part. [Exit *Por.*  
 —*Lucius*, the torrent bears too hard upon me:  
 Justice gives way to force: the conquer'd world  
 Is *Cæsar's*! *Cato* has no business in it.

*Luc.* While pride, oppression, and injustice reign,  
 The world will still demand her *Cato's* presence.  
 In pity to mankind submit to *Cæsar*,  
 And reconcile thy mighty soul to life.

*Cato.*

*Cato.* Would *Lucius* have me live to swell the number  
Of *Cæsar's* slaves, or by a base submission  
Give up the cause of *Rome*, and own a tyrant?

*Luc.* The victor never will impose on *Cato*  
Ungen'rous terms. His enemies confess  
The virtues of humanity are *Cæsar's*.

*Cato.* Curse on his virtues! they've undone his country.  
Such popular humanity is treason——  
But see young *Juba*; the good youth appears,  
Full of the guilt of his perfidious subjects!

*Luc.* Alas, poor prince! his fate deserves compassion.

*Enter Juba.*

*Jub.* I blush, and am confounded to appear  
Before thy presence, *Cato*.

*Cato.* What's thy crime?

*Jub.* I'm a *Numidian*.

*Cato.* And a brave one, too. Thou hast a *Roman* soul.

*Jub.* Has thou not heard of my false countrymen?

*Cato.* Alas, young prince! fallhood and fraud shoot up  
in ev'ry soil,

The product of all climes—*Rome* has its *Cæsar's*.

*Jub.* 'Tis generous thus to comfort the distress'd.

*Cato.* 'Tis just to give applause where 'tis deserv'd:  
Thy virtue, prince, has stood the test of fortune,  
Like purest gold, that tortur'd in the furnace,  
Comes out more bright, and brings forth all its weight.

*Jub.* What shall I answer thee? 'My raviuh'd heart  
'O'erflows with secret joy:' I'd rather gain  
Thy praise, O *Cato*, than *Namidia's* empire.

*Enter Portius.*

*Por.* Misfortune on misfortune! grief on grief!  
My brother *Marcus*——

*Cato.* Hah! what has he done?  
Has he forsook his post? Has he giv'n way?  
Did he look tamely on, and let 'em pass?

*Por.* Scarce had I left my father, but I met him  
Borne on the shields of his surviving soldiers,  
Breathless and pale, and cover'd o'er with wounds.  
Long, at the head of his few faithful friends,  
He stood the shock of a whole host of foes,

Till obstinately brave, and bent on death,  
Opprest with multitudes, he greatly fell.

*Cato.* I'm satisfy'd.

*Por.* Nor did he fall before

His sword had pierc'd through the false heart of *Syphax*.

Yonder he lies. I saw the hoary traitor

Grin in the pangs of death, and bite the ground.

*Cato.* Thanks to the gods, my boy has done his duty.

—*Portius*, when I am dead, be sure your place

His urn near mine.

*Por.* Long may they keep asunder!

*Luc.* O *Cato*, arm thy soul with all its patience;

See where the corpse of thy dead son approaches!

The citizens and senators, alarm'd,

Have gather'd round it, and attend it weeping.

*Cato, meeting the corpse.*

*Cato.* Welcome, my son! Here lay him down, my friends,

Full in my sight, that I may view at leisure

The bloody corse, and count those glorious wounds.

—How beautiful is death, when earn'd by virtue!

Who would not be that youth? What pity is it

Than we can die but once to serve our country!

—Why sits this sadness on your brows, my friends?

I shou'd have blush'd if *Cato's* house had stood

Secure, and flourish'd in a civil war.

—*Portius*, behold thy brother, and remember

Thy life is not thy own, when *Rome* demands it.

*Jub.* Was ever man like this!

[*Aside.*]

*Cato.* Alas, my friends,

Why mourn you thus! let not a private loss

Afflict your hearts. 'Tis *Rome* requires our tears,

The mistress of the world, the seat of empire,

The nurse of heroes, the delight of gods,

That humbled the proud tyrants of the earth,

And set the nations free, *Rome* is no more.

O liberty! O virtue! O my country!

*Jub.* Behold that upright man! *Rome* fills his eyes

With tears, that flow'd not o'er his own dead son. [*Aside.*]

*Cato.* Whate'er the *Roman* virtue has subdu'd,

The sun's whole course, the day and year are *Cæsar's*;

For him the self-devoted *Decii* dy'd,

The

The *Fabii* fell, and the great *Scipios* conquer'd ;  
 Ev'n *Pompey* fought for *Cæsar*. O my friends !  
 How is the toil of fate, the work of ages,  
 The *Roman* empire, fall'n ! O curst ambition !  
 Fall'n into *Cæsar*'s hands ? Our great forefathers  
 Had left him nought to conquer but his country.

*Jub.* While *Cato* lives *Cæsar* will blush to see  
 Mankind enslav'd, and be asham'd of empire.

*Cato.* *Cæsar* asham'd ! Has he not seen *Pharsalia* !

*Luc.* *Cato*, 'tis time thou save thyself and us.

*Cato.* Lose not a thought on me, I'm out of danger,  
 Heav'n will not leave me in the victor's hand.

*Cæsar* shall never say he conquer'd *Cato*.

But O my friends, your safety fills my heart  
 With anxious thoughts : a thousand secret terrors  
 Rise in my soul. How shall I save my friends ?

'Tis now, O *Cæsar*, I begin to fear thee.

*Luc.* *Cæsar* has mercy if we ask it of him.

*Cato.* Then ask it, I conjure you ! let him know  
 What'er was done against him, *Cato* did it.

Add, if you please, that I request it of him.

'That I myself, with tears, request it of him,'

The virtue of my friends may pass unpunish'd.

*Juba*, my heart is troubled for thy sake.

Shou'd I advise thee to regain *Numidia*,

Or seek the conqueror ?—

*Jub.* If I forsake thee  
 Whilst I have life, may Heav'n abandon *Juba* !

*Cato.* Thy virtues, prince, if I foresee aright,  
 Will one day make thee great ; at *Rome* hereafter,  
 'Twill be no crime to have been *Cato*'s friend.

*Portius*, draw near : my son, thou oft hast seen

Thy fire engag'd in a corrupted state,

Wrestling with vice and faction : now thou seest me

Spent, o'erpower'd, despairing of success ;

Let me advise thee to retreat betimes.

To thy paternal seat, the *Sabine* field.

Where the great *Censor* toil'd with his own hands,

And all our frugal ancestors were blest'd

In humble virtues, and a rural life ;

There live retir'd, pray for the peace of *Rome* ;

Content thyself to be obscurely good.  
When vice prevails, and impious men bear sway,  
The post of honour is a private station.

*Por.* I hope my father does not recommend  
A life to *Portius*, that he scorns himself.

*Cato.* Farewel, my friends! If there be any of you  
Who dare not trust the victor's clemency,  
Know there are ships prepar'd by my command,  
(Their sails already op'ning to the winds)  
That shall convey you to the wish'd-for port.  
Is there aught else, my friends, I can do for you?  
The conqueror draws near. Once more farewel!  
If e'er we meet hereafter, we shall meet  
In happier climes, and on a safer shore,  
Where *Cæsar* never shall approach us more.

[*Pointing to his dead son.*

There the brave youth, with love of virtue fir'd,  
Who greatly in his country's cause expir'd,  
Shall know he conquer'd. The firm patriot there,  
Who made the welfare of mankind his care,  
Tho' still by faction, vice, and fortune crost,  
Shall find the gen'rous labour was not lost. [Exeunt.

## A C T V.

*Cato solus, sitting in a thoughtful posture: in his hand Plato's  
book on the Immortality of the Soul,  
A drawn sword on the table by him.*

IT must be so—*Plato*, thou reason'st well—  
Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire,  
This longing after immortality?  
Or whence this secret dread, and inward horror,  
Of falling into nought? Why shrinks the soul  
Back on herself, and startles at destruction?  
'Tis the divinity that stirs within us;  
'Tis Heav'n itself that points out an hereafter,  
And intimates eternity to man:  
Eternity! thou pleasing, dreadful thought!  
Through what variety of untry'd being,

Through

Through what new scenes and changes must we pass?  
 The wide, the unbounded prospect lies before me;  
 But shadows, clouds, and darkness rest upon it.  
 Here will I hold. If there's a power above  
 (And that there is all nature cries aloud,  
 Through all her works) he must delight in virtue;  
 And that which he delights in must be happy.  
 But when! or where—this world was made for *Cæsar*.  
 I'm weary of conjectures—this must end 'em.

[*Laying his hand on his sword.*]

Thus am I doubly arm'd: my death and life,  
 My bane and antidote, are both before me.  
 This in a moment brings me to an end;  
 But this informs me I shall never die.  
 The soul, secur'd in her existence, smiles  
 At the drawn dagger, and defies its point.  
 The stars shall fade away, the sun himself  
 Grow dim with age, and nature sink in years,  
 But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,  
 Unhurt amidst the war of elements,  
 The wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds,  
 What means this heaviness that hangs upon me?  
 This lethargy that creeps through all my senses?  
 Nature oppress'd, and harass'd out with care,  
 Sinks down to rest. This once I'll favour her,  
 That my awaken'd soul may take her flight,  
 Renew'd in all her strength, and fresh with life,  
 An off'ring fit for Heav'n. Let guilt or fear  
 Disturb man's rest, *Cato* knows neither of 'em,  
 Indiff'rent in his choice to sleep or die.

*Enter Portius.*

But, hah! how's this, my son? Why this intrusion?  
 Were not my orders that I would be private?  
 Why am I disobey'd?

*Par.* Alas, my father!

What means this sword, this instrument of death?  
 Let me convey it hence.

*Cato.* Rash youth, forbear!

*Por.* Oh, let the pray'rs, th' intreaties of your friends,  
 Their tears, their common danger, wrest it from you!

*Cato.*

*Cato.* Wouldst thou betray me? Wouldst thou give me up,

A slave, a captive into *Cæsar's* hands?  
Retire, and learn obedience to a father,  
Or know, young man!—

*Por.* Look not thus sternly on me;  
You know I'd rather die than disobey you.

*Cato.* 'Tis well! again I'm master of myself.  
Now, *Cæsar*, let thy troops beset our gates,  
And bar each avenue; thy gath'ring fleets  
O'erspread the sea, and stop up ev'ry port;  
*Cato* shall open to himself a passage,  
And mock thy hopes——

*Por.* O sir! forgive your son,  
Whose grief hangs heavy on him, O my father!  
How am I sure it is not the last time  
I e'er shall call you so! Be not displeas'd,  
Oh, be not angry with me whilst I weep,  
And, in the anguish of my heart, beseech you  
To quit the dreadful purpose of your soul!

*Cato.* Thou hast been ever good and dutiful.

[*Embracing him.*]

Weep not, my son, all will be well again;  
The righteous gods, whom I have sought to please,  
Will succour *Cato*, and preserve his children.

*Por.* Your words give comfort to my drooping heart.

*Cato.* *Portius*, thou may'st rely upon my conduct;  
Thy father will not act what misbecomes him.  
But go, my son, and see if aught be wanting  
Among thy father's friends; see them embark'd,  
And tell me if the winds and seas befriend them.  
My soul is quite weigh'd down with care, and asks  
The soft refreshment of a moment's sleep. [Exit.]

*Por.* My thoughts are more at ease, my heart revives.

*Enter Marcia.*

O *Marcia*, O my sister, still there's hope!  
Our father will not cast away a life  
So needful to us all, and to his country.  
He is retir'd to rest, and seems to cherish  
Thoughts full of peace. He has dispatch'd me hence  
With

With orders that bespeak a mind compos'd,  
And studious for the safety of his friends.

*Marcia*, take care that none disturb his slumbers. [*Exit.*]

*Mar.* O ye immortal powers, that guard the just,  
Watch round his couch, and soften his repose,  
Banish his sorrows, and becalm his soul  
With easy dreams; remember all his virtues!  
And shew mankind that goodness is your care.

*Enter Lucia.*

*Luc.* Where is your father, *Marcia*, where 'is *Cato*?

*Mar.* *Lucia*, speak low, he is retir'd to rest.

*Lucia*, I feel a gentle dawning hope  
Rise in my soul. We shall be happy still.

*Luc.* Alas! I tremble when I think on *Cato*?  
In every view, in every thought, I tremble!  
*Cato* is stern and awful as a god;  
He knows not how to wink at human frailty,  
Or pardon weakness that he never felt.

*Mar.* Though stern and awful to the foes of *Rome*,  
He is all goodness, *Lucia*, always mild,  
'Compassionate and gentle to his friends:  
'Fill'd with domestic tenderness, the best,'  
The kindest father I have ever found him,  
Easy and good, and bounteous to my wishes.

*Luc.* 'Tis his consent alone can make us blest'd.  
*Marcia*, we both are equally involv'd  
In the same intricate, perplex'd, distress.  
The cruel hand of fate that has destroy'd  
Thy brother *Marcus*, whom we both lament—

*Mar.* And ever shall lament, unhappy youth!

*Luc.* Has set my soul at large, and now I stand  
Loose of my vow. But who knows *Cato's* thoughts?  
Who knows how yet he may dispose of *Partius*,  
Or how he has determin'd of thyself?

*Mar.* Let him but live, commit the rest to heav'n.

*Enter Lucius.*

*Luc.* Sweet are the slumbers of the virtuous man!  
O *Marcia*, I have seen thy god-like father;  
Some power invisible supports his soul,  
And bears it up in all its wonted greatness.  
A kind refreshing sleep is fall'n upon him:

I saw him stretch'd at ease, his fancy lost  
In pleasing dreams; as I drew near his couch,  
He smil'd, and cry'd, *Cæsar*, thou can'st not hurt me.

*Mar.* His mind still labours with some dreadful thought.

' *Luc. Lucia*, why all this grief, these floods of  
sorrow?

' Dry up thy tears, my child, we all are safe  
' While *Cato* lives—his presence will protect us.'

*Enter Juba.*

*Jub. Lucius*, the horsemen are return'd from viewing  
The number, strength, and posture of our foes,  
Who now encamp within a short hour's march;  
On the high point of yon bright western tower  
We ken them from afar, the setting sun  
Plays on their shining arms and burnish'd helmets,  
And covers all the field with gleams of fire.

*Luc. Marcia*, 'tis time we should awake thy father,  
*Cæsar* is still dispos'd to give us terms.  
And waits at distance 'till he hears from *Cato*.

*Enter Portius.*

*Portius*, thy looks speak somewhat of importance.  
What tidings dost thou bring? Methinks I see  
Unusual gladness sparkling in thy eyes.

*Por.* As I was hasting to the port, where now  
My father's friends, impatient for a passage,  
Accuse the ling'ring winds, a sail arriv'd  
From *Pompey's* son, who through the realms of *Spain*  
Calls out for vengeance on his father's death,  
And rouses the whole nation up to arms.  
Were *Cato* at their head, once more might *Rome*  
Assert her rights, and claim her liberty.  
But, hark! what means that groan! Oh, give me way,  
And let me fly into my father's presence. [*Exit.*]

*Luc. Cato*, amidst his slumbers, thinks on *Rome*,  
And in the wild disorder of his soul  
Mourns o'er his country. Hah! a second groan—  
Heav'n guard us all!—

*Mar.* Alas! 'tis not the voice  
Of one who sleeps; 'tis agonizing pain,  
'Tis death is in that sound.—

*Re-enter Portius.*

*Por.* O sight of woe!  
O *Marcia*, what we fear'd is come to pass!  
*Cato* is fall'n upon his sword.—

*Luc.* O *Portius*,  
Hide all the horrors of thy mournful tale,  
And let us guess the rest.

*Por.* I've rais'd him up,  
And plac'd him in his chair, where, pale and faint,  
He gasps for breath, and as his life flows from him,  
Demands to see his friends. His servants weeping,  
Obsequious to his order, bear him hither.

*Mar.* O Heav'n! assist me in this dreadful hour,  
To pay the last sad duties to my father.

*Jub.* These are thy triumphs, thy exploits, O *Cæsar*!

*Luc.* Now is *Rome* fall'n indeed!

[*Cato brought on in a chair.*

*Cato.* Here set me down—

*Portius*, come near me—Are my friends embark'd?  
Can any thing be thought of for their service?  
Whilst I yet live, let me not live in vain.

—O *Lucius*, art thou here?—Thou art too good—  
Let this our friendship live between our children,  
Make *Portius* happy in thy daughter *Lucia*.

Alas! poor man, he weeps!—*Marcia*, my daughter—

Oh, bend me forward!—*Juba* loves thee, *Marcia*.

A senator of *Rome*, while *Rome* surviv'd,  
Would not have match'd his daughter with a king,  
But *Cæsar*'s arms have thrown down all distinction;  
Whoe'er is brave and virtuous, is a *Roman*—

—I'm sick to death—Oh, when shall I get loose  
From this vain world, th' abode of guilt and sorrow!—

And yet, methinks, a beam of light breaks in  
On my departing soul. Alas, I fear

I've been too hasty. O ye powers, that search  
The heart of man, and weigh his inmost thoughts,  
If I have done amiss, impute it not!—

The best may err, but you are good, and—Oh! [*Dies.*

*Luc.* There fled the greatest soul that ever warm'd  
A *Roman* breast; O *Cato*! O my friend!  
Thy will shall be religiously observ'd.

But

But let us bear this awful corps to *Cæsar*,  
And lay it in his sight, that it may stand  
A fence betwixt us and the victor's wrath;  
*Cato*, tho' dead, shall still protect his friends.

From hence, let fierce contending nations know  
What dire effects from civil discord flow.

'Tis this that shakes our country with alarms,  
And gives up *Rome* a prey to *Roman* arms,  
Produces fraud, and cruelty, and strife,  
And robs the guilty world of *Cato's* life.

[*Exeunt omnes.*

EPILOGUE.

# E P I L O G U E.

*WHAT* odd fantastic things we women do?  
 Who wou'd not listen when young lovers woo!  
 But die a maid, yet have the choice of two!  
 Ladies are often cruel to their cost:  
 To give you pain, themselves they punish most.  
 Vows of virginity should well be weigh'd;  
 Too oft they're cancell'd, tho' in convents made.  
 Wou'd you revenge such rash resolves—you may  
 Be spiteful—and believe the thing we say,  
 We hate you when you're easily said nay.  
 How needless, if you knew us, were your fears?  
 Let love have eyes, and beauty will have ears.  
 Our hearts are form'd as you yourselves would chuse,  
 Too proud to ask, too humble to refuse:  
 We give to merit, and to wealth we sell:  
 He sighs with most success that settles well.  
 The woes of wedlock with the joys we mix:  
 'Tis best repenting in a coach and six.  
 Blame not our conduct, since we but pursue  
 Those lively lessons we have learnt from you.  
 Your breasts no more the fire of beauty warms,  
 But wicked wealth usurps the pow'r of charms.  
 What pains to get the gaudy thing you hate,  
 To swell in show, and be a wretch in state.  
 At plays you ogle, at the ring you bow;  
 Ev'n churches are no sanctuaries now:  
 Their golden idols all your vows receive,  
 She is no goddess that has nought to give.  
 Oh, may once more the happy age appear,  
 When words were artless, and the thoughts sincere:  
 When gold and grandeur were unenvy'd things,  
 And courts less coveted than groves and springs:  
 Love then shall only mourn when truth complains,  
 And constancy feel transport in its chains:

Sighs

*Sighs with success their own soft anguish tell,  
And eyes shall utter what the lips conceal:  
Virtue again to its bright station climb,  
And beauty fear no enemy but time;  
The fair shall listen to desert alone,  
And ev'ry Lucia find a Cato's son.*

F I N I S.

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